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Reportage on Asian Regional Human Rights Meeting

Thai Prime Minister Speaks

BK3003032393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Mar 93 p A6

["Full text" of speech by Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai at the Asian Regional Meeting on Human Rights in Bangkok on 29 March]

[Text] Like many other countries in this region, Thailand has been moving steadily towards greater democracy.

Naturally this process had to overcome whatever obstacles along the irreversible path of democratization. But our society has always emerged stronger after every challenge. By this, I am referring to the growing awareness in Thailand of an individual's rights and fundamental freedoms as well as of one's duties to society.

Ordinary people are aware of how these concepts—abstract as they may be—affect their everyday life. The inherent inter-relationship between human rights, democracy and development has become clearly visible. The need to keep a fair balance between those fundamental components becomes even more urgent. This is particularly so in the time of greater political and economic uncertainties in our world today.

For Asia to succeed and play a more prominent role on the world stage, we must ensure that our peoples are provided with their rights and freedoms as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We must strive for a world where, among other things everyone—man or woman—is born free and equal and is entitled to the same rights and freedoms without discrimination.

We must strive for a world free of fear and want. We must aim for a world free of discrimination not only among individuals but among nations.

I believe that the path towards these ideals lies through economic development, democratization and social justice. In this regard, I cannot stress enough the importance of the right of the peoples and nations in Asia, as everywhere else in the world to develop—as reflected in the Declaration on the Right to Development and to determine their own destiny free from interference from the outside.

Economic development alone, though, is not enough. For economic growth to be sustainable in the long term, social development and the universal value of human rights and fundamental freedoms must also be enhanced. This can only be achieved through the accelerated, but balanced, realization of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, as solemnly enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the International Bill of Human Rights, particularly the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

It is toward these ideals that my government is striving. My government is determined to take appropriate steps and measures aimed at guaranteeing further the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Thai people. Towards this end, my government is undertaking the necessary steps for Thailand to accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, one of the two covenants contained in the International Bills of Human Rights, thus consolidating further the efforts made by previous Thai governments.

As declared in my government's policy statement, we have accorded higher priority to the rights of the child, as well as those of women and vulnerable groups. The same applies to our decentralization and income distribution policy which aims not only to alleviate poverty but also to provide better education and social services to our rural population. Without fairer distribution of income, the ideal of social justice will only be illusory.

On the part of the Thai Parliament, a parliamentary Committee on Justice and Human Rights has been recently established. This Committee will afford elected parliamentarians the opportunity to consult actively with governmental agencies on key human rights issues now before us.

To effectively protect and promote fundamental human rights, the authorities must abide by the rule of law. Justice must not only be done but also seen to be done. The rule of law will serve as a guarantee against abuse of powers. Furthermore, the law of the land must be strictly enforced and complied with. Only with the actions of both the authorities and the ordinary people could sanctity of the law be upheld.

Without such sanctity, the human rights could not evolve in a peaceful, harmonious, and secured manner.

Although a society's human rights values can only evolve at its own pace, cooperation can and should be provided by the international community. Indeed, international cooperation should aim at overcoming poverty and ignorance which are the main obstacles in the promotion of human rights in developing countries.

Here, I believe education and training in human rights at the national, regional and international levels, are crucial if we are to increase our peoples' awareness of human rights.

Asia itself should cooperate more closely in the field of human rights, especially in the exchange of information and education. In the past, it was the civilizations of Asia that gave birth to great religions of the world, so we are no stranger to human rights. We could help shape and refine international standards and norms.

The role of non-governmental organizations is welcomed. Dialogue between governments and non-governmental organizations on the basis of shared values and commitments could generate public awareness and grass-root participation.

Furthermore, the many organs of the United Nations concerned with human rights, particularly the Centre for Human Rights, should be given increased support and encouragement. This is essential if they are to better respond to our needs in the field of human rights.

This conference should serve to underline the fact that there is only one set of fundamental human rights for whatever part of the world. It should also eliminate the misconceived idea that human rights in a more economically developed region of the world are superior to those in a less economically developed region. Perception of rights does not exist in pure air. It is a result of complex inter-actions between several groups in the society.

Therefore, it is natural that approaches to the implementation of fundamental human rights vary because of differences in socio-economic, historical, cultural backgrounds and conditions. The promotion of universality of human rights would be more effective if there is a clear understanding and recognition of such differences. Changes to human rights must emerge primarily from within and not imposed from the outside. Human rights should also evolve at their own pace if they are to be peaceful and sustainable.

Japanese NGO's Barred

BK3003023193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Mar 93 p A2

[Text] Two Japan-based non-governmental organizations (NGOs) campaigning for East Timor have been barred from participating in the Asia Regional Meeting for the Second World Conference on Human Rights that started in Bangkok yesterday.

John Pace, the World Conference's coordinator, without naming any countries, admitted that "one government" had opposed their participation while another supported their presence at the conference.

It was, however, understood that the opposing party was Indonesia and the proponent was Japan.

"It may not be an amicable solution to ban their participation but the organizing committees felt it was a necessary thing," said Pace, without elaborating.

One of the NGOs barred is the International Federation for East Timor, which is associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information. The NGO consists of 17 organizations from 12 countries with an interest in the decolonization process in East Timor. The other organization is the Free East Timor Coalition.

Both NGOs had initially obtained accreditation from the United Nations to attend the Asian Meeting.

Informed sources at the conference said Indonesia threatened to walk out of the conference if representatives from these NGOs were allowed to join the meeting.

The sources added that the organizers bowed to the requests of the Indonesian government because they did not want to jeopardize the chances of UN Special Representative Amos Wako, assigned by UN Secretary-General Butrus-Butrus Ghali to investigate human rights abuses in East Timor.

In Geneva on March 11, the United Nations Human Rights Commission adopted a resolution condemning Indonesia for human rights violations in East Timor, saying it was deeply concerned about continuing abuses there.

Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975, annexing it the following year. Indonesian army action came into the international spotlight on Nov 12, 1991 when Indonesian soldiers opened fire on pro-independence demonstrators, killing close to 180 people.

A Timorese delegate attending the conference as an adviser to the International Services for Human Rights called the Indonesian government's opposition to the presence of the two NGOs a tactical mistake.

"Why are they so afraid of little girls from Japan who are innocent and can do no harm?" asked Jose Ramos Horta, referring to the representatives of the two human rights groups.

Horta is also the foreign representative of the National Council of Timorese resistance based in Portugal.

At the conference, Malaysia rallied together with Indonesia and warned Western countries against imposing their standard of human rights on Asian countries.

In response, Horta said if other government representatives were stronger in their commitment to protect human rights, such an "embarrassment" on the part of Indonesia would not have occurred.

The five-day regional meeting with representatives from 49 countries will seek to formulate an Asian agenda for the forthcoming World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna between June 14-25.

The meeting will also try to form an inter-governmental Asian Human Rights Commission. The Asia-Pacific region currently stands out for not having a mechanism to address and protect human rights.

The head of the Indonesian delegation, Wiriyono, yesterday called on Asian countries gathered at the Asia Regional Meeting to adopt a balanced approach to human rights issues.

Wiriyono, director-general of the Indonesian Foreign Ministry's political department, urged the Asian group to consider regional arrangements to promote and protect human rights as suggested at the last Human Rights Commission meeting, by taking fully into account the level of political economic, social and cultural development of each country in the region.

He emphasised that NGO activities should be confined to human rights concerns and not those involving political motives.

Addressing the plenary session yesterday, Wiriyono said the balanced approach, which he claimed to be in accordance with the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, should express a symmetry between respect for the fundamental freedom of individuals on one hand and respect for the individual's duties and responsibilities to society and the State on the other.

"Without that balance, the right of society as a whole is rendered moot and this could lead to social upheaval and even anarchy," he said.

"The view that is prevalent in Asia is that the human being is both an individual and a member of society. His existence therefore can only become meaningful when he functions in a social environment," he said.

He stressed that Jakarta subscribed to social responsibility as well as to human rights.

Wiriyono also rapped the international community for its lack of sensitivity to political, economic, social and cultural diversity in the world.

"When this diversity is disregarded, as it often is, then we are confronted by imbalances in the expression of human rights concerns which are characterized by politicization, selectivity, double standards and discrimination," he said.

He attacked the West for using human rights as a condition for economic cooperation.

"The full realization of civil and political rights without the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural right is impossible," he argued.

He said human rights questions were essentially ethical and moral in nature and any approach to these questions which was not motivated by a sincere desire to protect the fundamental rights, but by disguised political purposes, could not be justified.

Jose Ramos Horta of the East Timor resistance, referring to Wiriyono's statement that human rights must take into account cultural diversity, said it was an old argument that had been used time aRer time by Jakarta to freely arrest, kill, imprison and to rob their own people with impunity.

Jose said he agreed with Jakarta's argument that human rights issues should not be misused to protect a country's economic interests, but he suggested that Indonesia could retaliate against those countries by halting oil and gas sales to other countries that violated human rights.

The East Timor resistance leader stressed that claims made by Third World leaders that food was needed before freedom was just an excuse for dictators to remain in power.

"In many cases, and in many countries of Asia, the governments mortgage the well-being and the future of their countries to multilateral lending agencies," he said.

KYODO Source: DPRK Near 'Economic Collapse'

OW2703011593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0056 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] Beijing, March 27 KYODO—North Korea, despite its ability to shock the world, seems close to economic collapse, says a recent visitor to the Stalinist state. But without firsthand, in-depth information, it is difficult to assess how far the economy of one of the world's last communist bastions has deteriorated. An ethnic Korean from China spoke to KYODO NEWS SERVICE about his experiences on condition he was not identified.

Chinese of Korean descent can still visit relatives in North Korea fairly easily. About 60 percent of the population in the Yanbian Korean Autonomous Area in China's Jilin Province have Korean heritage.

The visitor was hungry, frozen and unable to sleep during his first night across the border for a family reunion. His host, an intellectual and influential official of the Communist Korean Workers' Party, gave him an asbestos mattress in an unheated room. As a local party official, his host got certain privileges. But food on the table was mainly rice blended with corn.

He said food shortages have become critical in the past year. Eggs and meat are no longer available and the Korean national dish, kimchi and its sauteed version, rarely appear. Between last July and October, even the delivery of blended rice was delayed, according to the host. While the host himself gets about 30 percent of his daily rations in white rice, corn makes up more than 90 percent of his family members' rations.

An elementary school student is allocated 500 grams a day, a high school student 600 grams and most workers 700 grams. But people doing heavy labor and party executives get 800 grams. Theoretically, guests from China are entitled to 700 grams of white rice a day but when the visitor went to claim his provisions, the local distribution center had run out.

"Until 1984, North Korea's living standard was good but now we are in trouble," the host's wife told him. As local industry has priority in power supply, residents of the town of 20,000 get no electricity for half the day. Use of electrical appliances except for televisions and lighting is curtailed to save energy. Certain electrical appliances are banned and if any are discovered during occasional raids on homes, the owners are reported and fined. The host family usually cooks its daily portions before dawn and then hides its illegal Chinese-made electric rice cooker in a cabinet.

Gasoline also is in short supply. The visitor did not see any cars during his stay except military vehicles and three Japanese-made limousines for high-ranking party officials. People walk or cycle because there is no public transport due to the gasoline shortage.

Private homes are not heated despite piercing cold. Public kindergartens and nurseries remain closed in winter for this reason.

Similarly desolate is the supply of daily necessities. For months the only soap available has been splinters of shaving soap. There is no toothpaste, so people use salt for their teeth. Not knowing when she will next get washing powder, the host's wife uses it "only very seldom as it's too valuable." Women do not wear cosmetics because there are none.

But propaganda slogans are ubiquitous. Boards along roads and banners hanging from major buildings proclaim, "Long Live Great Leader Marshal Kim Il-song" and "Long Live Dear Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il."

Supported by an absolute information blackout—televisions and radios are registered and set to fixed frequencies to ensure north Koreans only tune in to approved programs—indoctrination still proves effective.

When the visitor presented his hosts' 2-year-old granddaughter with sweets and cookies, the child did not give him a glance but instantaneously rushed in front of a portrait of both Kims. Raising her hands, she said, "my great leader father, my dear leader comrade, thank you very much."

North Koreans are afraid of criticizing the government. "I even don't trust my wife. She could denounce me if we divorced," the host confided.

But there are signs of eroding communist moral. Rumors are rife that cigarettes and alcohol work well as bribes. A carton of cigarettes reportedly helped a young newlywed, who did not have his own place, to be allocated an apartment straight away. Another youngster "paid" five boxes of cigarettes for a doctor's certificate that diagnosed him with a nonexistent hip problem. He now works half days only and spends his free afternoons as an agent for Chinese traders, multiplying his monthly salary in a single deal.

The visitor had similar experiences himself. When arriving at his destination, he was stopped by a military sentry, who accused him of being "a refugee from China." Four packets of cigarettes altered the impression and he was welcomed as "the guest from China" instead.

"Beware of thieves" warned a sign at a nearby fenced "Chinese market" where products brought in from China are on sale. Although the traders take precautions and tie their merchandise to display tables, the goods are frequently snatched. A local gang of some 20 children aged 12 and 13 has developed a sophisticated method of "fishing" desired objects from tables from outside the fence using rods with a hook. Traders say the civilian police are not reliable.

Although they arrest and detain thieves, the police officers usually sell the confiscated booty at about 80 percent of the market price to other Chinese traders, they said.

Scholar Examines Thai Policy Toward Burma

BK2803145793 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 27-28 Mar 93 p II

[Article by Dr. Surin Maisikhrot, research fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies [ISEAS], Singapore, in the monthly 'ISEAS Trends' distributed with the BUSINESS TIMES, entitled: "A Chill Descends on Bangkok-Yangon Ties"]

[Text] It seems inevitable that Thailand's policy towards Myanmar [Burma] will soon see a significant change, with Bangkok being less accommodating of the Yangon [Rangoon] government. This change, however, will be dependent on two crucial factors—the continuing stability of Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai's government, and clearer and stronger support from other ASEAN countries.

There have already been a number of changes to Thailand's policy towards Myanmar since Chuan took office last September. For example, the Thai government has relaxed its control over Myanmar dissidents living in Bangkok and other parts of Thailand. The Thai government has also become more outspoken about the situation in Myanmar.

Being democratically-elected, Chuan wanted to have foreign policies consistent with democratic principles as much as possible. In February, Thailand played host to a meeting of seven Nobel Prize winners—including the Dalai Lama of Tibet, who is an "enemy" of China—to campaign for the release of Myanmar opposition leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, another Nobel Prize laureate under house arrest in Yangon since 1990.

Although the Thai government was not officially involved in the laureates' conference, the non-governmental organisers did have the government's approval. The most direct part the government played was in granting a visa to the Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader to attend the meeting. This was, in fact, a dramatic change of policy since the Dalai Lama had, in the past been refused entry into Thailand because of objections from China. As it turned out, Yangon expressed "uneasiness" over the event, saying such a meeting was an "interference in the domestic affairs of Myanmar".

At about the same time when the Nobel Prize laureates were meeting in Bangkok, Thai Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan visited Yangon to hold talks over border demarcation. Although Surin did not meet other more powerful leaders in Yangon, he was blunt with his counterpart, Myanmar Deputy Foreign Minister U Nyunt Swe, about Bangkok's policy in promoting human rights and democracy, implying his objections to what was going on in Myanmar.

There are a number of factors contributing to the shift in Thailand's policy towards its neighbour.

First, Bangkok has increasingly realised that a two-track policy of supporting minorities on the one hand, and keeping friendly relations with the junta in Yangon, on the other, was no longer practical.

Bangkok has found that Yangon was getting harder to talk to and continued to create problems for Thailand.

For instance, last year, the Myanmar junta closed most of the border points with Thailand, which had an adverse impact on Thai goods being sent across into Myanmar. As a result, Thailand lost its textile market in Myanmar to China. Also, Myanmar abducted a senior Thai official and a number of villagers along the border last year. Moreover, towards the end of the year both countries almost went to war with each other over a disputed hill opposite the southern province of Chumphon. Meanwhile, Bangkok continues to shoulder the burden of hosting Myanmar dissidents, housing them, giving them professional training and so on.

Increasingly, Thailand feels that using the Myanmar minorities as a buffer is no longer sufficient for Thai security.

Secondly, the shift in the Thai attitude towards Myanmar has also been due to the decline of the influence of military/security officials in the making of Thai foreign policy and the rise of a stronger democratic government in Thailand.

This has, in turn, led to assertiveness by the so-called "Young Turks" in the Thai foreign ministry. The "Young Turks" want the civilian government to institutionalise civilian supremacy in foreign policy-making. To that extent, their voice is being heard, particularly in the wake of allegations that the military has been involved in business deals with Thailand's neighbours, including Myanmar, which has tarnished the country's image.

Thirdly, Bangkok was recently alarmed by the closer relationship between Yangon and Beijing, particularly in the area of defence and security. Last year, China sold weapons to Myanmar worth more than US$ 1 billion. Reports of China having access to the Andaman sea by helping Myanmar build a naval base and radar station at its southern coastal seaboard worried Bangkok. If such reports are true, Thailand's security would be under threat in light of Beijing's new assertiveness over maritime disputes, such as the Spratly islands.

The Myanmar junta's need for a military buildup matches well with China's desire to strengthen its military muscle in the region in the absence of US and Soviet forces in the Pacific. The Myanmar regime is now doing everything—and selling everything—to acquire more weaponry.

This has led Bangkok to envisage a scenario where Myanmar serves as a "gateway" for China to exert more power in South-east Asia. Again, the "Young Turks" at the foreign ministry want the government to view the influence of China differently than in the recent past. This new thinking in the ministry seems to be gaining in strength, so much so that even the present Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri, who is known for being pro-China, seems to be heeding the advice of the "Young Turks".

However, what is precarious about the "new thinking" is that it is dependent largely on the kind of government led by Chuan. In the event that Chuan's government is toppled and replaced by a more conservative one, particularly one that is pro-military, this seemingly changing policy might be reversed overnight.

Another factor that can strengthen the shift of Thailand's policy towards Myanmar is support from the ASEAN countries. Such support would have to be very concrete and broad-based.

For example, any condemnation of the Myanmar junta's policy should be referred to overall abuses of political and human rights, and not just as a response to specific issues like Yangon's suppression of Myanmar's Muslim minority. ASEAN would have to view what happens in Myanmar as a threat—or a potential threat—to the overall stability of the entire region. Such regionalisation of the "Myanmar issue" would add to the already existing world attention on Myanmar, and would probably result in some positive changes in that country.

Workshop Identifies Pressing ASEAN Issues

BK2403031393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Mar 93 p 6

[Text] The regional arms race, human rights, natural resources competition, and transportation network have been identified as issues to be solved by a collective effort, a senior Foreign Ministry official said yesterday.

The issues were identified yesterday, at the end of a two-day workshop on ASEAN-UN Cooperation in Peace and Preventive Diplomacy. The workshop marked the start of an effort to formulate a process for cooperation in preventive diplomacy by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United Nations.

Sarasin Wiraphon, the director-general of the Foreign Ministry's America and South Pacific Department, told a Press Conference that the participants were concerned about the arms race in the region and had agreed that a collective effort was needed to curb this in order to prevent future conflicts and crisis.

They identified human rights as an issue for preventive diplomacy even though they are yet to agree whether it should be regarded as an internal, bilateral or multilateral matter, he said.

The competition for natural resources, such as those in the Mekong River, as well as the need to have transportation links, narcotics trafficking and the movements of people, including refugees, were other areas identified for preventive diplomacy, he added.

"Some issues have to be prioritized but the meeting has not made a decision on this," Mr Sarasin said.

The participants also supported the idea of setting up an information network to solve problems that have been jointly identified.

A network of information exchange is important to the solution or prevention of conflicts, Mr Sarasin pointed out.

The workshop, supported by the Foreign Ministry's International Studies Centre and funded by the Ford Foundation, attracted about about 60 participants from 17 countries, including Thailand.

The workshop also covered the problems of solving the impasse in Cambodia within the framework of the United Nations and territorial disputes within the Southeast Asian region.

But the seminar did not address Thailand's policy on Burma, he added.

"The workshop did not intend to find solutions to particular problems but to examine problems and a long-term process to resolve them," Mr Sarasin told reporters.

Nit Phibunsongkhram, the Thai Ambassador to the United Nations who joined the Press Conference, supported Mr Sarasin by saying that the workshop "was not problem-oriented and was merely trying to identify the terms of preventive diplomacy and other relevant issues."

The seminar did not discuss the proposal of former prime minister Anan Panyarachun for the United Nations to appoint a special envoy to work with ASEAN in order to resolve regional issues and maintain peace in this region.

"The workshop did not go that far," Mr Nit said.

Singapore has agreed to host the second workshop of the series in June, Mr Sarasin noted.

Japan

Envoy Holds News Conference on U.S. Concerns

OW3003112093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1044 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will be expected to explain in Washington what steps Japan plans to take to tackle the burgeoning trade imbalance and contribute to global economic recovery, Japan's envoy to Washington said Tuesday.

Ambassador Takakazu Kuriyama, who returned to Tokyo on Sunday to lay the groundwork for Miyazawa's April 15-18 visit, made the remarks at a news conference. He said there is mounting concern in Washington over the growth of Japanese exports, at least in value, while U.S. exports to Japan have stopped rising, despite having doubled every five years since the latter half of the 1980s.

Kuriyama noted that while the U.S. economy is picking up, Japan remains in a slump.

Kuriyama leaves for Washington on Wednesday. He was briefing reporters on the assessment he gave Miyazawa earlier in the day.

He said Miyazawa's April 16 meeting with president Bill Clinton will take up the issue of support for Russian President Boris Yeltsin by the group of seven major industrial nations. The two men also are likely to discuss how to coordinate their policies toward China, Vietnam, Cambodia and North Korea in the wake of Pyongyang's decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty.

Kuriyama said there has been "absolutely no change" under Clinton in the U.S. policy of supporting Japan's claim to four Russian-occupied islands seized by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

Planned 'U.S.' Construction Talks Canceled

OW3003130593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1247 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Planned talks between Japan and the United States on foreign access to Japan's construction market have been canceled and may be rescheduled for mid-April, government sources said Tuesday [30 March].

The talks, aimed at reviewing a 1988 bilateral construction pact, had been scheduled to take place Thursday and Friday in Washington.

Intended as talks focusing on ways to improve the fairness of bidding for public works projects in Japan, the two-day bilateral meeting was called off "due to the wide gap in views between Tokyo and Washington," a source said. "We have concluded that two days of talks will produce no agreement," the source said.

The sources said the U.S. may be increasing its pressure on Japan to open its construction market in the wake of revelations that general contractors donated huge amounts of money in political donations to Shin Kanemaru, fallen political power broker who has been indicted on tax evasion charges.

The 1988 major projects arrangement commits Japan to opening 17 public projects to foreign bids. Yielding to U.S. pressure, Japan agreed in June 1991 to add 17 more construction projects to the list and to allow U.S. companies to bid six other possible projects currently under consideration.

They said the U.S. Government might exploit the Kanemaru case to extract more concessions from Japan at a future review meeting, which may be held in mid-April.

Minister Explains Ban on U.S. Apple Imports

OW3003055593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0444 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Japan currently bans imports of apples from the United States not because the market is closed but because of technical problems to do with Japan's plant protection law, the farm minister said Tuesday.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu told a regular press conference that imports of apples have basically been liberalized in Japan. But the nation does not currently accept American apples because it is examining the U.S. methods of keeping apples free of harmful insects which do not exist in Japan, Tanabu said.

He pointed out that his ministry is considering allowing imports of apples from New Zealand because that country has almost eliminated the technical problems. "There are no unfair practices," he added. New Zealand apple imports will be allowed because that country has perfected a way of eliminating pests, it was earlier reported.

Tanabu was commenting on criticisms made Monday by a U.S. diplomat in Osaka preparing for a U.S. agricultural fair. James Parker, minister-counsellor for agricultural affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, said that Japan shuts its market unfairly to American apples to protect domestic growers.

According to officials of the Farm Ministry's Plant Protection Division, the U.S. also bans imports of Japanese apples for reasons similar to Japan's. The two countries are to further examine each other's methods of eliminating pests, and will eventually lift restrictions, the officials said.

LDP 'Divided' Over Government Aid to Russia

OW3003104393 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 30 Mar 93

[From "NHK News" program]

[Text] The ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] has decided to hold a meeting of the General Council on 7 April for an exchange of views on shaping an intra-party consensus on Japanese aid to Russia. Speaking at a meeting of of four LDP executives held today, LDP General Council Chairman Sato said: Foreign and finance ministers from the seven industrial powers will hold talks in Tokyo for two days, from 14 to 15 April, to discuss ways to provide aid to Russia, but the LDP is still divided over Japan's aid to Russia. Therefore, I would like to propose holding a meeting of the LDP General Council to confirm the LDP's policy on Japan's aid to Russia. At the meeting, other LDP executives agreed with his proposal.

Leaders of the government and the ruling party met yesterday to discuss Japan's aid to Russia. At the meeting, LDP Policy Affairs Research Council Chairman Mitsuzuka stressed that Japan should take the initiative in providing aid to Russia while Foreign Minister Watanabe indicated his cautious view that Japan should provide aid to Russia in concert with other industrial nations, thereby revealing the differences between the government and the LDP over Japan's aid to Russia. Therefore, the LDP decided to hold the meeting of its General Council to exchange views on Japan's aid to Russia.

Watanabe Remarks on Shelving Territorial Issue

OW3003051593 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 30 Mar 93

[From "NHK News" program]

[Text] In a news conference after the 30 March cabinet meeting, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said that at present support for Russia's Yeltsin administration takes preference to the northern territories issue. He said this is because there would be no development in the territorial issue as long as President Boris Yeltsin is backed into a tight corner.

During the cabinet meeting this morning, Mr. Watanabe called for the understanding of other cabinet members on his decision not to raise the northern territories issue when President Yeltsin attends the Group of Seven [G-7] Tokyo summit. When a reporter asked about the remarks, Mr. Watanabe said that there should be no connection between the territorial issue and President Yeltsin's attendance. He noted that, as a matter of course, Japan will continue to carry on territorial negotiations with Russia hereafter, but the territorial issue is not the main purpose of Japan's invitation of President Yeltsin this time.

Moreover, Mr. Watanabe stated as follows: President Yeltsin is now in a very difficult situation due to voices calling for his resignation, and he cannot afford to comply with difficult demands from Japan. We are supposed to discuss the issue when the bilateral negotiations can be handled most efficiently. At this moment, it is more important for us to help him out of his difficulties.

Referring to Japan's principle not to open full-fledged economic assistance to Russia unless the political dispute takes a favorable turn, Foreign Minister Watanabe said there is no change in the principle, but sometimes the government has to cope with the real world on a case-by-case basis. He added that Japan has been offering humanitarian aid to Russia, and will do all it can as a member of the international community.

Russia Asked for Documents on Nuclear Waste

OW3003132993 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 30 Mar 93

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] Russia's disposal of nuclear waste in the Sea of Japan was taken up at today's session of the House of Councillors Budget Committee. Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said that the government has asked Russia to give Japan detailed documents about the disposal. He said that after studying it, the government will urgently take necessary measures. Watanabe was answering a question from Atsushi Akiyama, a member of the Social Democratic Party of Japan.

Watanabe said it is regrettable if the disposal is true. He said that the government has called for detailed documents about the disposal, and it has already asked Russia to stop disposing of nuclear waste. He said that Russia has said it would comply with Japan's request and hand over documents to Japan soon.

In connection with this issue, Hirobumi Satake, director of the Science and Technology Agency's Nuclear Safety Bureau, said that recent investigations have indicated that nothing unusual has yet been found in marine products in the Sea of Japan.

Ministry Says PRC Buildup Not Destabilizing

OW3003052293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0504 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Japan does not view China's military modernization program as a destabilizing factor in the Asia-Pacific region, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday. "For the moment at least, they don't seem to have come to the point of being a very destabilizing factor in this part of the world," spokesman Sadaaki Numata said in an interview with Cable News Network broadcast from Tokyo.

Asked about reports China was considering purchase of an aircraft carrier to facilitate its naval ambitions, Numata said Chinese authorities "are denying this rumor." But he said, "We will continue to watch this Chinese posture with very keen interest."

Meanwhile, Koji Kakizawa, parliamentary vice foreign minister, in a monthly newsletter distributed by his office, said Beijing "seems to be adopting a more active approach to military affairs and has taken bold steps to modernize its military."

Kakizawa said some observers see China's claim to the Spratly and Senkaku Islands as a "sign of its expansionist designs in the Asia-Pacific region and its tough diplomatic posture." "China's moves could spark a vicious cycle of military strengthening in the Asia Pacific region," he said.

Engineer Interviewed on DPRK Nuclear Facilities

OW3003113093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1050 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—A military attack to disable North Korea's nuclear facilities is "out of the question" because it could send radioactive contamination over South Korea and Japan, a former Japanese diplomat in charge of disarmament said Tuesday. Ryukichi Imai, former ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, said a military attack against North Korean nuclear facilities would "invite heavy contamination of a wide area," with winds possibly blowing deadly material over South Korea and Japan.

Imai, a nuclear engineer, said in an interview that an attack could disperse up to 10 tons of natural uranium, depending on the type of damage.

Pyongyang decided March 13 to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and bar international inspections of its nuclear sites, heightening suspicions by Japan and the West that it is seeking to conceal a nuclear weapons program. Japan, the United States and South Korea are seeking to use quiet diplomacy to persuade Pyongyang to reverse its decision, which will take effect in three months.

No Promise To Include 'Comfort Women' in Texts

OW3003055493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0517 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Japan cannot promise to describe its alleged forced prostitution of Asian women for the Japanese military during World War II in school history textbooks, Education Minister Mayumi Moriyama said Tuesday.

Moriyama told reporters it is "difficult" to direct textbook publishers to put accounts of "comfort women"—a term for women who allegedly were forced into prostitution in military brothels during the war. She said the publishers decide to edit the textbooks on their own. The Education Ministry, however, screens textbooks and sometimes orders publishers to change passages it finds fault with.

Moriyama was commenting on a MAINICHI SHIMBUN report Monday that South Korea wants Japan to mention the issue in the school textbooks. The minister said the issue will be taught, however, as school teachers are urged to teach students modern and current history.

On Monday, the South Korean Foreign Ministry announced the country will not ask Japan to compensate surviving comfort women.

South Korea will itself give some 140 such women who have registered with the government 5 million won (about 6,300 dollars) each in cash and help them with medical costs and rent, reports from Seoul said. But South Korea has asked Japan to sincerely investigate the issue, which it said will satisfy the South Korean people, who suffered under Japanese colonial rule from 1910 to 1945.

Historians say that some 100,000 to 200,000 women, mostly from the Korean peninsula, were forced to serve as prostitutes for Japanese soldiers at the front during World War II.

Kono Comments on 'Comfort Women' Compensation

OW2903212993 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] South Korean President Kim Yong-sam has stated that the South Korean Government would not seek any financial compensation for former Korean comfort women from the Japanese Government. In line with the president's statement, the South Korean Government recently decided to pay each of the former comfort women a lump sum of money and a monthly living allowance. According to the South Korean Foreign Ministry, each former Korean comfort woman will be paid about 1.5 million won, or 750,000 yen, in a lump sum, and 206,000 won, or 30,000 yen, as a monthly living allowance. The South Korean Government has maintained that the Japanese Government should probe into the truth about the former Korean comfort women to prevent a recurrence of such an incident in the future. The South Korean Government says that its decision to compensate the former Korean comfort women would not affect at all the lawsuits filed by some former Korean comfort women against the Japanese Government.

In reaction to the South Korean Government's decision to compensate the former Korean comfort women, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono said: I cannot comment on the South Korean Government's decision, since I know nothing about the details of the decision; however, the Japanese Government is now doing its utmost to investigate the former Korean comfort women issue. The Japanese Government will study ways to express regret to the former Korean comfort women for their suffering of deep sorrow and mental wounds. In this way, the government spokesman indicated that the Japanese Government would take some steps other than compensation for the former Korean comfort women after completing the investigation.

Government, EC Agree To 'Promote Dialogue'

OW3003122493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1215 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Japan and the European Community (EC) Tuesday agreed to hold a working-level session in Brussels late May to discuss ways to enhance cooperation for industrial development, government officials said. The agreement was reached at a meeting between Martin Bangemann, the EC Commissions's vice president for industrial affairs and information and telecommunications technology, and International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori, the officials said.

The meeting will be in line with an agreement reached between Japan and the EC when Mori visited Europe in January.

Bangemann said the meeting should look at formulating international standards for new technologies, the officials said. He expressed hope that European companies will be allowed a role in Japan's "new social infrastructure" project to consolidate information and communications networks, they said.

Mori and Bangemann also agreed that both sides will do their best to bring about an early conclusion of ongoing negotiations on Japan-EC automobile trade, the officials said.

Bangemann arrived in Tokyo on Sunday for five days of talks with government and industrial leaders to promote dialogue between Japan and the EC.

Tokyo Agrees To Reschedule Bulgarian Debt

OW3003100593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0950 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Japan has agreed to reschedule part of Bulgaria's debt payments until August 1999, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. The ministry said the agreement covers loans worth about 6.42 billion yen and about 6.95 million dollars Bulgaria owes to the government-financed Export Import Bank of Japan as well as commercial debt worth about 39 million yen.

The ministry said Bulgaria will repay these debts in eight semiannual installments after its repayments of principal and interest are put off until August 1999. The rescheduling is in line with a relief package agreed on at a meeting of Bulgaria's creditor nations last December, the ministry said.

Paper Says Donations to WHO Misappropriated

OW3003102193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0957 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Japanese donations to the World Health Organization (WHO) have been allegedly misappropriated as payments to executive board members from developing nations ahead of the director general election in January, the YOMIURI SHIMBUN newspaper reported Tuesday.

Its dispatch from New York said the alleged deviated use of public funds was revealed in an exceptional outside auditing. The audit concluded seven disbursements made from last fall until January to executive board members of African, Asian and South American nations, who have suffrage on the election, as "blatant disregard" for the WHO accounting rules.

All seven disbursements were made to the executive board members or their related organizations, in which Japanese voluntary donations to the WHO were used after sanction by a senior Japanese WHO official, according to the YOMIURI.

Experts headed by the British Board of Audit made the outside audit since suspicion arose about management of the WHO public funds following rejection, by budget-financing department officials, of submitting related papers to inside auditors in January.

The YOMIURI said the major daily obtained a secret inside auditing note issued January 25 and the results of the 40-page outside audit.

Hiroshi Nakajima of Japan was reelected January 26 as director general of the WHO, defeating two contenders in a secret ballot of 31 executive board members.

Allegedly, the outside audit said, those disbursements lacked necessary documents before and after the payments, and they were made without official authorization and by disregarding rules requiring inter-bank remittance, the YOMIURI said. The audit concluded the expenditures allegedly bypassed the ordinary way of WHO fund use and termed them as a "regrettable, grave violation" of the WHO accounting rules.

Nakajima beat former WHO Deputy Director General Muhammad Abdelmoumene by a vote of 18-13. Before the election, however, European nations and the United States media accused Japan of trying to win developing countries' support for Nakajima by using its Official Development Assistance (ODA) or its economic power to purchase imports from the countries.

Nakajima is the first Japanese to head a UN agency. His reelection to a new five-year term is expected to be formally approved in May by the general meeting of the world health body which is the part of the United Nations.

Nakajima told the YOMIURI that he received the outside audit report and would announce the results by

May. "It is regrettable that fund diversion involving the election have been suspected...I will deal with it properly," the YOMIURI quoted Nakajima as saying.

Extremist Leader Arrested for 1986 Summit Attack

OW3003141893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1354 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—The Metropolitan Police Department on Tuesday [30 March] arrested a 49-year-old leading member of the extremist group of Chukakuha (Middle Core Faction) for a mortar attack aimed at the meeting place of the 1986 Tokyo Economic Summit of the Group of Seven countries, police said.

Masao Fukushima has been on the most-wanted list for allegedly violating the Explosives Control Law. Police also arrested a woman who sheltered the underground activist on suspicion of harboring a criminal.

In the 1986 attack on the opening day of the May Tokyo Summit, Chukakuha members fired five mortar shells toward the Akasaka State Guesthouse from a launcher set in a condominium in Shinjuku, police said. All the shells flew over the state guesthouse, and hit a building and roads in Akasaka in central Tokyo.

Police so far have arrested three persons in connection with the attack.

JNP Unveils Candidates for General Election

OW3003132793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1308 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—The year-old Japan New Party (JNP) on Tuesday named 18 of the candidates it says it will field in a general election expected to be held this year. Besides the 18 official party candidates, the JNP also will back two others. The party currently holds only four seats in the House of Councillors.

JNP chief Morihiro Hosokawa has said the party will back dozens of candidates in the election. He said that next week he will announce more candidates from among citizens who applied for party candidacy.

The average age of the first batch of candidates is just over 41, and the group includes two women and 18 men. The figure includes six incumbent local assembly members and nine former local assembly members who bolted from other political parties such as the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, the Social Democratic Party and the United Social Democratic Party.

The JNP was formed just before the February 1992 regular election for the House of Councillors.

A survey by the YOMIURI SHIMBUN showed 15.1 percent support for the JNP when voters were asked which party they favor if an election was called now. The largest opposition group, the Social Democratic Party, fell below the JNP to 13.8 percent, followed by 3.6 percent for Komeito, 3.5 percent for the Japanese Communist Party and 1.9 percent for the Democratic Socialist Party.

Contractors To Ban Illegal Political Donations

OW3003114893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1033 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—The construction industry said Tuesday it will impose a ban on illegal political donations by member firms at an emergency executive meeting Wednesday. The decision followed a statement by Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, that general contractors will abide by the Political Funds Control Law in the future.

Ishikawa, who is chairman of major contractor Kajima Corp., made the remark at a news conference Tuesday in connection with disclosures that general contractors have donated a huge amount of political donations to Shin Kanemaru, disgraced Japanese political power broker who has been indicted on tax evasion charges. "As far as Kajima Corp. is concerned, the company will refrain from making political donations outside the scope of the Political Donations Control Law, and I think other general contractors will agree on similar steps," he said.

Ishikawa said he is ready to step down as chairman of Kajima and he will humbly listen to the opinions of others although he was not involved in the Kanemaru affair. He declined to go into further details, saying the case was still under investigation.

Ishikawa said he has no intention at present to resign as chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry because he feels heavy responsibility for those who elected him to his post. He said he will work on the Construction Ministry to adopt an open bidding formula for selecting contractors for major projects.

Miyazawa Vows To Ban 'Defections' in Bidding

OW3003065893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0541 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa pledged Tuesday to eliminate "defections" in the public bidding system of selecting construction companies for public works projects. "In order to alleviate defections surrounding orders, contracts, and bidding for public works projects, (the government) will implement all the measures (necessary) to correct what has to be corrected," Miyazawa said.

The prime minister made the remarks at the House of Councillors Budget Committee in response to a question from Atsushi Akiyama of the Social Democratic Party.

Akiyama pressed the prime minister to account for allegations that fallen ruling party kingpin Shin Kanemaru used his political clout over the Construction

Ministry to direct projects to contractors who allegedly gave him under-the-table donations.

Miyazawa suggested Kanemaru's alleged tax evasion appears to have stemmed from the former Liberal Democratic Party vice president's failure to distinguish between political donations and personal income. Miyazawa said the roots of Kanemaru's alleged crime "appear to include his failure to distinguish between public and private affairs."

Opposition parties have alleged that Kanemaru amassed his personal fortune by siphoning off political donations from contractors seeking his influence over appropriations of public projects.

Panel To Study Financial Disclosure Rules

OW3003093193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0851 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—A Finance Ministry advisory panel will begin studying in April the disclosure rules on recently increasing off-balance trading and management conditions of securities and trust banking subsidiaries of financial institutions, ministry officials said Tuesday.

A working group of the commission on financial system research will discuss the disclosure system to draft a report by the end of the year. With the report, the ministry will design the disclosure standards for financial institutions to follow from as early as their book closing for the year ending March 31, 1994, the officials said.

The move is intended to help investors grasp as combined information the accounting of subsidiaries and parent financial institutions. As financial reforms take effect on April 1, banks will be allowed to enter the securities and trust banking businesses through subsidiaries.

On recently expanding off-balance trading, the ministry cited the need to disclose to investors with major banks' off-balance assets considerably exceeding their overall assets. Off-balance transactions are those currently not subject to accounting rules of reporting on balance sheets, including futures, options and swap dealings.

LDP, Opposition Discuss Ways To Spur Economy

OW2903204293 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] The intraparty consultative panel, made up mainly of secretaries general of ruling and opposition parties, held its first session today to discuss ways to stimulate the economy. At the session, participants from both ruling and opposition parties agreed to draw a final decision on how to spur the economy before the party summit talks scheduled for 9 April.

The intraparty consultative panel is composed of secretaries general and officials in charge of policy affairs in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], the main opposition Social Democratic Party of Japan, the opposition Komeito, and the opposition Socialist Democratic Party.

Speaking at the first session held this afternoon in the Diet, LDP Secretary General Kajiyama, who also serves as chairman of the panel, said: Spurring the current stagnant economy is an important task, and both ruling and opposition parties must work together to accomplish this task. I hope that the ruling and opposition parties will draw a conclusion on how to stimulate the economy before the party summit talks scheduled for 9 April. I also hope to let Prime Minister Miyazawa clearly explain to the U.S. Government how Japan plans to stimulate its economy when he visits the United States.

In response, participants from opposition parties agreed with Mr. Kajiyama's proposal for drawing a conclusion before 9 April, and officials in charge of policy affairs in ruling and opposition parties will hold a working-level meeting on 1 April to discuss concrete measures to spur the economy.

At the session, participants from opposition parties pointed out that the LDP had promised to positively deal with cutting income taxes, and then asked that the LDP draw a conclusion on income tax cuts before 9 April. In response, Mr. Kajiyama said that the LDP would work on the cuts.

MITI Plans To Decrease Issuance of Licenses

OW3003123593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1225 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) plans to sharply reduce the number of permits and licences granted by the ministry in response to mounting calls for deregulation, a top MITI official said Tuesday.

The official, who refused to be identified, said the ministry plans to cut the number of MITI-related permits and licences, which totaled 1,915 at the end of March 1992, by about 10 percent by as early as the end of April. By the fall, further reductions will be implemented and the ministry will seek advice from a new panel on the matter to be established inside the ministry.

"We will do our utmost, though a radical reduction is difficult because many of the miti-related permits and licences are quite important socially and economically," the official said. The move came in reaction to complaints from business circles. They claim that MITI is exerting influence over the industrial community through its permits and licences, which in numbers is second largest among government agencies following those by the Transport Ministry.

Of the 1,915 permits and licences, 553 are concerned with disaster prevention, 321 with industrial regulations and 180 with consumer protection.

North Korea

Reaction to DPRK Withdrawal from NPT Continues

Paper Against 'Economic Sanctions'

SK3003045393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442 GMT 30 Mar 93

["No 'Sanction' Can Work"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 30 (KCNA)—The United States and other reactionary forces of the world are trying to frighten the Korean people, claiming that international "economic sanctions" should be taken against the DPRK which declared its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. This is a ridiculous dream.

NODONG SINMUN says this in a commentary today.

It is a daydream of a fool to get something from another "economic sanction" against the Korean people who have risen up, tearing off the curtain of "economic blockade" by the U.S.-led imperialists over the past 40 years, the news analyst states, and goes on:

We have the might of singlehearted unity of the leader, the party and the people and the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance. The Korean people have nothing to be afraid of and have a tradition of creating something out of nothing.

It is an innocent idea to shake with "sanctions" our independent national economy which remains unaffected by turbulent worldwide economic upheavals.

If the U.S.-led imperialists seek to violate our national sovereignty and destroy our socialist system with "blockade" or "sanctions", we will respond to the United States and its followers with strong countermeasures.

The South Korean authorities who are trifling with the destiny of the nation, courting outside forces' favour, must not run about recklessly. They must know well that they will never be safe if they behave without discretion, crying for "blockade" and "sanctions".

The United States must draw a serious lesson from its miserable defeat in its past "blockade" and not misjudge the unshakable will and staunch fighting spirit of the Korean people.

'Japanese Figures' Support Action

SK3003111193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 30 (KCNA)—Japanese figures of various circles published statements supporting the statement of the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea declaring its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

Hiroshi Wakabayashi, general secretary of the Japan committee for supporting the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea, held the DPRK Government statement was one based on a keen penetration into the U.S. purpose in demanding a "special inspection" and said that Japan should give some advice to the United States and, if she is unwilling to do so, should at least refrain from following or supporting it.

Military analyst Ayajo Kubo said it was intolerable that the Japanese media were slandering an independent state, while not verifying the U.S. unilateral "information about nuclear suspicion" against the DPRK.

"The DPRK's decision to withdraw from NPT is a legitimate self-defensive measure and a resolute decision allowable in view of the international law," he added.

Honorary Professor Manabu Hatori of the Rikkyo University said the United States which had developed many nuclear weapons was not entitled to speak this or that about the DPRK.

The central headquarters of the Japanese Women's Society in a statement said the root cause of the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula was that the U.S. had brought nuclear weapons into South Korea. It strongly demanded that the Japanese Government renounce the policy hostile to the DPRK at once and make a switchover to a peaceloving policy for detente of the Korean peninsula and the denuclearization of Northeast Asia.

Religious Organizations Support Action

SK2703013693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1539 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 26 (KCNA)—The Korean Christians Federation and the Korean Chondoist Association expressed full support to the statement of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea declaring its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], calling it a just step to defend national sovereignty and the security of the country and safeguard peace of Asia and the rest of the world.

The spokesman for the C.C. [Central Committee], the Korean Christians Federation in a statement on March 25 strongly urged some officials of the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and some member states to admit the unjustness of the demand for a "special inspection" of the DPRK they are raising under the manipulation of the United States and sincerely fulfil their obligations under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) on the principle of impartiality and strict neutrality.

The spokesman expressed the hope that the international Christians' organizations and national organizations and all the Christians in the world who value justice and peace pay a due attention to the grave situation created on the Korean peninsula and extend positive support and solidarity to the step taken by the DPRK Government.

The spokesman for the Central Guidance Committee of the Korean Chondoist Association in a statement urged the United States to stop at once the reckless nuclear blackmail and the "special inspection" racket and the Japanese authorities to join no longer the United States in the criminal demand for a "special inspection".

"We express the hope that all the Chondoists in South Korea, too, at this grim moment when the danger of a nuclear war has been created on the Korean peninsula by the outside forces, will uphold the principle of national independence and actively participate in the struggle against the aggression and war moves of outside forces by displaying a patriotic spirit.

More Religious Groups Support Action

SK2703045393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0428 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 27 (KCNA)—Spokesmen for the Central Committees [C.C.] of the Korean Buddhists Federation and the Korean Roman Catholics Association issued statements on March 26 supporting the statement of the DPRK Government on its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

The spokesman for the C.C., the Korean Buddhists Federation welcomed and fully supported as a most just step the DPRK government's withdrawal from the NPT decisively rejecting the "resolution" of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

Noting that the IAEA put pressure on the DPRK, raising a hue and cry over its fictitious "nuclear development", while conniving at the presence of U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea and at Japan's and South Korea's moves of nuclear armament, he said this is apparently a proof of the agency's dual character.

"The United States and some quarters of the IAEA must know clearly that any brigandish logic or strong-arm act cannot go down with our people," he said, urging the United States to give up its attempt at a "special inspection" and pull its troops and nuclear weapons out of South Korea at an early date.

The spokesman for the C.C., the Korean Roman Catholics Association said "the United States and some quarters of the IAEA Secretariat must apologize for their unreasonable act in adopting the brigandish 'resolution' and immediately stop their clamor for a 'special inspection' of our republic and insolent attempt to impose 'sanctions' on it."

Ministry Denounces U.S. 'Voice Free Asia' Scheme

SK3003113593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1110 GMT 30 Mar 93

["DPRK Foreign Ministry Spokesman on U.S. Scheme To Launch 'Voice Free Asia'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 30 (KCNA)—We will decisively smash any attempt of the U.S. reactionary circles to stifle our socialism through ideological and cultural infiltration, declared a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today when he was interviewed by KCNA on the U.S. scheme to start "Voice Free Asia."

Noting that the U.S. Administration's decision to start "Voice Free Asia" was part of its sinister intention to execute its strategy of "peaceful transition" in the socialist countries of Asia, he said:

"The United States is trying hard to stifle our socialism at any cost by sending the wind of 'liberalization' into our country, while intensifying new war provocation moves against the Asian socialist countries, our republic in particular, and raising outcries over the fictitious 'nuclear arms development' by the DPRK.

"Such moves of the United States are useless.

"If they think that there are people in our country who would lend an ear to the radio full of lies and deception, it is a mistake.

"We have the chuche idea, the great guiding idea, the spirit of independence and our own way of life.

"Ours are not people who would yield to pressure and deception by the imperialists and give up socialism chosen by themselves in face of adversities and take another road.

"It would be more reasonable for the present U.S. Administration to direct the taxes collected from the people to saving its people from poverty caused by the catastrophic economic stagnation than squandering the money in interfering in the internal affairs of other countries such as the operation of the radio.

"Even though the United States dare start the broadcasting in defiance of the unanimous opposition of the Asian people, it would get nothing therefrom.

"The United States must promptly cancel the project of 'Voice Free Asia.'

The U.S. foolish attempt to destabilize the Asian socialist countries through the radio is doomed to failure."

DPRK Vice President Continues India Visit

Meets Indian Prime Minister

SK3003040193 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao met with DPRK Vice President Yi Chong-ok, a special envoy of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, on 26 March.

At the meeting, the special envoy conveyed greetings from the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Kim Chong-il to Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha

Rao. The prime minister expressed his deep gratitude to this and asked the special envoy to convey his sincerest greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The prime minister noted that India and Korea had long been close and promoted excellent relations of friendship. He added that the two countries have closely cooperated in the non-aligned movement and have various potentials and possibilities to further expand and develop these relations.

The prime minister said that Korea's reunification is very important for peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world. He stressed that he firmly believes that Korea would achieve reunification after overcoming a temporary obstacle in the way of reunification.

Present at the meeting were the minister of state of the prime ministers office, the Foreign Ministry secretary (?for East Asian Affairs), the delegation led by the special envoy, and our country's ambassador to India.

Meets Indian President

SK3003054793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Text] Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma met with DPRK Vice President Yi Chong-ok, a special envoy of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, at the presidential palace on 26 March.

At the meeting, the special envoy conveyed the greetings from the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to the president. He also delivered a personal letter of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song to the president. The president expressed his gratitude to this and asked the special envoy to convey his greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

He said that the state, government, and people of India truly wish the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song a long life and good health to lead Korea to prosperity. He noted that India and Korea, members of the non-aligned movement, have closely cooperated in the movement and that these relations have exerted good influences on other countries.

The president also said that the Indian people hoped that Korea would be reunified, that the North and South would become one according to a reunification formula based on a confederal system. The president also said that they believe that the day of reunification will eventually come.

The meeting was held in a friendly atmosphere.

Kim Yong-sun Meets Swedish Politicians 26 Mar

SK2903135893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Our country's Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] Foreign Affairs Committee Delegation led by Comrade Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee and chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the SPA, separately met (Steve Alenmir), the first deputy house speaker of Sweden, and Bertil Mabrink, chairman of the parliamentary group of the Swedish Left Party, in Stockholm on 26 March.

The chairman of the parliamentary group of the Swedish Left Party asked the delegation head to convey his warm greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. He said that he opposes the Team Spirit joint military exercise by the United States and South Korea, a dangerous nuclear war exercise which cannot be tolerated by any means. He emphasized that he will carry out the movement to achieve denuclearization on the Korean peninsula.

He said that Korea's reunification issue is an issue that should be resolved by the Korean people, with the people being the masters. He pointed out that this is an issue which outside forces should not interfere in. He said that he will make active efforts to strengthen support and solidarity between the two parties and two parliaments.

Foreign Groups Denounce Team Spirit Exercise

SK3003050493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 30 Mar 93

["'Team Spirit' Under Fire Worldwide"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 30 (KCNA)—Public organizations of different countries denounced the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities.

The Guinean Committee for Supporting Korean Reunification released a statement on March 18 urging the United States and the South Korean authorities to promptly stop all actions wrecking security such as "Team Spirit" and calling upon all the countries and people to make efforts to promote the process of Korean reunification.

The France-Korea Friendship Association in a statement issued on the same day contended that the "Team Spirit" had rendered the situation of the Korean peninsula strained. "If the question of Korean reunification is to be solved peacefully, foreign interference must be rejected, foreign troops and nuclear weapons be withdrawn from South Korea and the peninsula be denuclearized," it stressed.

In the March 12 statement the Spanish Committee for Supporting Korean Reunification called on broad segments of peaceloving people and progressive forces of the world to urge the United States and the South Korean authorities to stop the "Team Spirit" for good.

The All India Indo-Korean Friendship Association and the All India Youth Federation in statements strongly demanded that the U.S. and the South Korean authorities stop the joint military manoeuvres for good and all.

Kim Chong-il Order on 'Semi-War' 'Victory'

SK2903140493 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil: "Victory of An Independent People"]

[Text] As has already been reported, Comrade Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA] issued an order to lift the semi-war state which had been proclaimed to the entire country, all the people, and the entire Army as a self-defensive measure to defend the dignity and sovereignty of our nation and to frustrate the vicious maneuvers of the enemies to isolate and obliterate socialism of our own style which is centered on the popular masses. The order was issued in connection with the end of the field drills of the main stage of the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise conducted by the U.S imperialists and the South Korean puppets. The exercise mobilizes a tremendous number of troops.

This was a proclamation of the victory of chuche Korea which resolutely crushed the enemies' new war provocation maneuvers in the name of ever-victorious independence, firmly rallying around the party and the leader [suryong].

As everyone knows, the situation in our country was very grave when comrade KPA supreme commander declared the semi-war state to the entire country, all the people, and the entire Army.

Despite the strong protest and denunciation of our people and the world's revolutionary people who love peace and oppose war, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have conducted the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise, a test nuclear war exercise and preliminary war of northward invasion, and led the situation in our country to the brink of war.

The rascals brought on a large scale new types of fighters and ships loaded with nuclear weapons and various nuclear strike means into the Korean peninsula and its surrounding seas. They mobilized thousands of aggressive armed forces, including the rapid response deployment forces, from the U.S. military bases in the U.S. mainland and the Asian-Pacific areas including Guam, Hawaii and Japan.

The rascals looked for every chance for northward invasion mobilizing even F-117 Stealth fighter-bombers and Patriot missiles which allegedly attained success in the Persian Gulf war. At the same time, some officials of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] Secretariat and some of its member states, under the manipulation of the United States, have adopted a so-called resolution at a meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors on forcing upon us special inspections of our military sites [kunsa taesang], which have nothing to do with nuclear activities. By so doing, they maneuvered to take collective sanctions and put pressure on us.

The reckless war maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges created a grave situation in our country in which a war could break out at any time. At this very juncture, Comrade Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA] issued an order placing the entire country, all the people, and the entire Army in a semi-war state as a self-defensive measure. Our people, receiving comrade supreme commander's order, entered into full combat mobilization posture uniting more firmly around the party and the leader and holding a hammer and a sickle in one hand and a gun in the other. With this posture our people would have annihilated the rascals at a stroke if they had pounced upon us at any time. Our people have effected a revolutionary upswing in socialist construction.

The officers and men of the KPA and the members of the Red Worker-Peasant Militia and the Red Youth Guards entered into full combat readiness bracing themselves up stoutly with a heroic resolve to crush the enemies at a stroke. Upholding the Comrade Supreme Commander of the KPA, the young and middle-aged men and veterans of the northern half of the Republic launched themselves into the defense of the fatherland with a resolve to struggle at the cost of their lives for the party and the leader and for the socialist fatherland.

According to compiled data, some 1.5 million youths and students volunteered to join the People's Army during the 10-day period of time after the comrade supreme commander's order was issued, and numerous discharged soldiers and veterans of the Fatherland Liberation War resolved to serve again at the combat guardposts where they served before. Among them were many youths and working people who expressed their desire and resolve to join the Army by writing in blood such slogans as "I will fight at the cost of my life for Generalissimo Kim Il-song and Supreme Commander Gen. Kim Chong-il," "Sacred war of reunification-1993," "Let us become a fortress and a shield for protecting and defending Comrade Kim Chong-il, the supreme commander of our revolutionary armed forces, at the cost of our lives," "Defending fatherland," "Reunified fatherland," and "Let us defend socialism."

The youths, students, and working people across the country strived to be first in volunteering to join, and return to, the People's Army. This was the demonstration of the firm belief that they should share the fate with the party under the prevailing stern situation, defend our sacred republic, and should defend to the last the dignity of chuche Korea. As long as we have the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander—the ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander, we will certainly be victorious. These are the noble ideological feelings cherished deep in the hearts of our people and the soldiers of the People's Army. Because our people have this ideological and spiritual weapon, we were able to resolutely crush any aggression maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges and firmly defend our socialist fatherland. It has been demonstrated once again that the strength of the unity and cohesion of the popular masses who are ready to implement the leader's [suryongui] order unconditionally to the end is stronger than any nuclear weapon.

Our people will effect an upsurge in socialist economic construction with redoubled courage and high spirits of victors and with high revolutionary alertness and brilliantly decorate the 40th anniversary of the great victory in the Fatherland Liberation War.

Papers Ask Army To Continue 'Mobilized Posture'

SK2703055893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459 GMT 27 Mar 93

["Do Not Slacken Spirit Displayed in Semi-war State, Urge Papers"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 27 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON today editorially call upon the entire people and the officers and men of the People's Army [KPA] to continue their stubborn struggle in a mobilized posture, not slackening even a little the spirit which they displayed in the semi-war state.

NODONG SINMUN says:

The U.S. imperialists have not abandoned their aggressive design to stifle our republic, but are hatching a more dangerous plot. They are now waiting for a chance to see us slackening our vigiliance and becoming relaxed. Under such conditions, the entire soldiers, party members and working people must firmly keep themselves mobilized and strained and continue to work and live in a revolutionary way.

The entire people and officers and men of the People's Army must, first of all, deeply grasp the idea of comrade supreme commander that they should continue to wage a persistent struggle in the spirit and stamina which they displayed in the semi-war period.

And they should maintain the morale shown in the semi-war state and bring the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle into full play, thus effecting a revolutionary upsurge on all fronts of socialist construction.

The entire people and the KPA officers and men, with the unshakable faith that without the Workers' Party there can be no socialism of chuche, must defend the party, defying death, under whatever circumstances and continue to wage a powerful struggle to strengthen the unity and cohesion of the revolutionary ranks in keeping with the requirements of the strained situation.

MINJU CHOSON in its editorial calls upon all the officials and working people to effect a new upsurge in socialist construction and fully demonstrate the might of chuche Korea and the advantages of Korean-style socialism by highly displaying the revolutionary spirit which they displayed in the semi-war period.

Kim Il-song Guides Agricultural Works

SK3003050393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has guided [chido] the efforts of the agricultural sector. Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and our people, has guided the agricultural sector of each province.

Participating in this were Comrades Kang Song-san, Choe Yong-nim, Kim Tal-hyon, Hong Song-nam, So Kwan-hui, Kim Hwan, Kim Yun-hyok; chairman of the Agricultural Committee Kim Won-chin; responsible secretaries of the provincial, city, and county party; chairmen of the provincial rural economy committees, and city and county cooperative farm management committees; chairmen of the management boards of cooperative farms; ri party secretaries; functionaries in the field of agricultural science research; and other functionaries concerned in the agricultural field.

On several occasions, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song convened consultative meetings of the functionaries of the agricultural sector of different districts and agriculture related fields. He acquainted himself with details of the agricultural production in recent years in all provinces, plain areas, intermediate and mountainous areas, and hilly areas, and he proposed programs to increase production of the rural economy sector by continuing to thoroughly implement the party's agriculture-first policy.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song expressed great satisfaction that it was possible for the agricultural scientists, technicians, and workers in North Hamgyong Province to lay a firm foundation for a new turning point in agricultural production in the past under the guidance of the provincial party committee. He thanked the North Hamgyong provincial party committee, administrative and economic committee, and rural economy committee.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song also thanked the agricultural workers in South Hamgyong Province who harvested large quantities of grain last year by following the chuche farming method and embracing high loyalty to the party and the leader, despite the unfavorable natural and climatic conditions.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song said that only by farming well is it possible to realize our people's centuries-long long cherished desire to eat rice and meat soup, wear silk clothes, and live in a tile-roofed house. In this way the superiority of socialism of our own style centered on the popular masses can be highly displayed. He set agricultural production goals for every province and gave detailed instructions on how to attain them.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song said that raising the yield per chongbo [1 chongbo equals 2.45 acres] is an important way of increasing grain output in our country, where there are many mountains and arable land is limited. He also taught [kyosi] that an epoch-making turning point in grain output could be achieved by continuing to thoroughly implement the requirements of the chuche farming method, the advantages of which have already been proven through practice.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song said three things are needed for good farming: seed, fertilizer, and water. He taught that all the cooperative farms of the nation must sow high-yield seeds suited to their topographical features and climate; produce larger quantities of Hukposan fertilizer, magnetized slag and other organic mineral fertilizers as well as chemical fertilizers to sufficiently apply varieties of necessary fertilizers; and adjust and reinforce the irrigation system and facilities to amply water all paddy and non-paddy fields.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song said that the good experience of enhancing grain production at a high-level during the past few years at some cooperative farms in our country's northernmost region and the whole area of the east coast, where cold-weather damage is serious and clouds and fog are thick, shows that grain production can be enhanced anywhere if farming is done through the chuche farming method. He also taught that the guiding functionaries of the rural economy sector should emphasize farming in the flat areas and should also turn their attention to farming the northern mountainous areas and hilly areas so that more grain can be produced.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song instructed [kyosihasyossumnida] that while increasing grain production, the rural economy should be developed in various fields, including stockbreeding, pomiculture, and sericulture, in accordance with natural and geographical conditions of each area.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song gave instructions to increase capacities of chicken and duck plants, pig farms, and other stockbreeding bases built in every quarter of the country to the maximum and, at the same time, raise livestock on a large scale in all cooperative farms and households in rural areas so as to supply the people and soldiers with more meat and eggs.

Noting that our country has many big famous fruit farms, including Kwail county, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song instructed that fruit production should be increased by improving the composition of varieties of fruit trees and their distribution and by manuring and tending fruit trees well in accordance with climatic and soil conditions and scientific and technical requirements so as to supply larger quantities of various fresh fruits to the people all the year round.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song gave instructions to plant not only rice and maize but also many oil-bearing plants and plants for industrial use that grow well in northern areas and to increase silkworm production by increasing mulberry tree acreage and managing them well.

During the consultative meetings, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song looked at newly-made farming machines and presented tasks to complete the general mechanization of agriculture.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song acquainted himself in detail with structures, functions, and mechanism of various farming machines, including machines of granulating organic mineral fertilizer, machines for building ridges among rice fields, and manuring machines. He then said [kyosihasyossumnida] that it was very good to have manufactured highly-efficient farming machines suitable to our country's topographical conditions and helpful for agricultural production.

Noting that mechanization of agriculture is one of the most important ways of freeing farmers from difficult and hard work and increasing agricultural production, the great leader Comrade Kim Il- song instructed that more tractors and automobiles be produced and sent to rural areas. He also instructed that the task for general mechanization of agriculture presented in the rural theses should be accomplished ahead of schedule by mechanizing all farming work from rice-transplanting to harvesting.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song said that the success of these important and enormous agricultural tasks will be determined by the role of guiding functionaries. He expressed his firm belief that all guiding functionaries of party organizations, power bodies, administration and economic organizations, and the rural economy sector will brilliantly implement our party's agricultural policy by working and living in a militant way with the same spirit and vigor of the tensed and mobilized posture they displayed during the semi-war state and by predominantly displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude to repay the party's great expectation and trust.

The instructions that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song gave during his guidance for the work of the agricultural sector are programmatic guidelines to make a great turning point in agricultural production as well as to accelerate the victorious advance of the revolution and construction. Also they are the banner of encouragement, under which the superiority of our country's socialist rural economic system is being displayed and which vigorously inspires all party members and working people to the struggle to effect a great upsurge in socialist economic construction.

Daily Urges Youth To Become 'Rifles,' 'Bombs'

SK3003105193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025 GMT 30 Mar 93

["'Let Us Become Rifles and Bombs Defending General Kim Chong-il!'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 30 (KCNA)—"Let us become rifles and bombs defending General Kim Chong-il!"—this is an ardent desire and firm resolution filling the hearts of the 5 million Korean young people today, declares NODONG SINMUN today.

Our party is strong and the future of the Korean revolution is boundlessly bright and our people are firmly convinced that they will win as there are the loyal ranks of dependable young vanguards defending the party and the leader death-defyingly in the van, the paper says.

In the article headlined "To Become Rifles and Bombs Defending the Party and the Leader With Death Is the Faith and Oath of 5 Million Young People," the authors say:

The loyal pledge of Korean young people is the continuation of the readiness of the revolutionary forerunners to lay down their lives, their oath to make the revolution oo the last, remaining faithful to the great general, and the pledge of the unshakable faith and obligation and the pledge of iron will to share the destiny with the party to the end, even if the earth is toppled a hundred times.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il said:

"The young people must resolutely defend the party, with a firm resolve to share their destiny with it, and must act as its guards and death-defying corps at any time and at any place."

Today the ideological and moral state of the Korean young people is excellent. All the 5 million young vanguards are firmly prepared to become fortresses and shields in the decisive battle to defend the party and the leader.

Never before have our young people been so high in ideological resolution and in stamina and passion.

The ideological and mental traits of our young people who are defending the party and the leader with lives are based on the unshakable faith that the destiny of the party is at once their destiny.

Our young people have the bosom of the great teacher, the great father who is leading them, fully responsible for their destiny, and realising their beautiful ideal and ambition, the bosom of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The noble traits of our young people who are defending the party and the leader with lives are prompted by their sense of obligation and an expression of clean conscience of the new generation who have grown up in the bosom of the party.

Our young people who have received the education of chuche in the bosom of the party have realised how their happiness has come and how deep and great the benevolence of the party and the leader are.

The noble ideological and mental traits of the Korean young people who are firmly defending the party and the leader are chiefly based on the iron will that they are certain to emerge victor as long as there is the respected Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Our young people have traversed the most fruitful road of the revolution, the road of victory and glory, following the great leader. They experienced well how a misfortune was turned into a blessing and how miracles and feats were performed in socialist construction under the wise guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il who has literary and military accomplishments and loyalty and filial piety.

The Korean revolution is invincible and its prospect is boundlessly bright as the entire Korean young people are staunchly struggling with the firm pledge to defend the great leader with lives.

Today there are the powerful party, the League of Socialist Working Youth, a viable and militant vanguard organisation, and the Children's Union in our country.

Once respected comrade supreme commander issues an order, the whole party will rise up and the entire members of the League of Socialist Working Youth and the Children's Union will turn out.

There is no force on earth that can match this powerful strength.

Kim Chong-il Thanks Units for 'Good Examples'

SK3003105993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1034 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 30 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il extended thanks to units and working people for their good examples in the relations between the army and the people.

The employees of the Korean Publications Export and Import Company, the industrial press group and the Pyongsong factory of knitted goods for export sincerely aided the People's Army, true to the party's intention to attach importance to the military affairs.

They called on armymen and inspired them with publications including "With the Century," reminiscences of the great leader President Kim Il-song, and "Kim Chong-il's Selected Works" and aid materials.

The Pyongyang Municipal General Bureau of Transport, 29 organs and enterprises under it and the family of an official of the party committee of the General Bureau also aided the army with sincerity.

The medical workers of the hospital at which Comrade Chong Man-sok works, the hospital of the Chonsong youth coal mine and the Kaechon-ri clinic, Ichon County, and people of the ri and Songpyong district, Chongjin, gave effective medical treatment to armymen who had got wounded while performing their military duties so that they might return to their units.

Daily Urges Rallying Around Kim Chong-il

SK2803025493 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0010 GMT 22 Mar 93

[NODONG SINMUN 22 March editorial: "Let Us Vigorously Advance Under the Comrade Supreme Commander's Leadership With Ever- Victorious Faith"]

[Text] Filled with ever-victorious faith and optimism, all party members and working people are vigorously struggling to implement the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander's order. As long as we have the respected, beloved, and ever-victorious iron-willed comrade supreme commander, we will certainly be victorious. Our people and People's Army soldiers cherish this idea deep in their hearts. It is also a mighty ideological and spiritual weapon for determinedly smashing any aggressive moves of the imperialists and firmly advocate and defend our socialist fatherland.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has pointed out: We should make the party members and the working people deeply understand the truth that as long as there is the great leader and the great party we will certainly be victorious. Moreover, we should lead them like true revolutionaries to fight indomitably in order to complete the chuche revolutionary cause—the socialist cause—without faltering under any circumstance.

The people's faith in victory is a firm guarantee of victory in the revolution. Ever-victorious faith makes it possible for the people to bring into full play their matchless heroism, sacrifice, devotion, and invincible fighting spirit.

The people, who have the ever-victorious faith that they are sure to win a victory because they uphold the great leader [yongdoja], can overcome any ordeals and tribulations. They will fight indomitably and be victorious even when they are confronted with any of the powerful imperialists.

Our people are full of the firm faith that, as long as there is the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA], they will be victorious without fail. The comrade supreme commander's esteemed name is a symbol of victory and a fundamental source of ever-victorious faith and optimism.

The respected and beloved comrade supreme commander is the organizer, stimulator, and great guide of all victories of our people. Even in the most arduous situation, with total responsibility for the country and the people, comrade supreme commander is leading the struggle to resolutely advocate, defend, and glorify our socialism.

Through their own experiences, our people have gained the unshakable conviction that because comrade supreme commander, who has extraordinary wisdom and outstanding leadership, is leading them, they can win a victory by decisively repulsing any challenge and war provocation maneuvers by the imperialists against our republic. For our people who fought against the imperialists' reckless aggressive maneuvers, such faith means strength and is the most important factor in winning.

What is most important in having faith that we will be victorious without fail when following the great leader [yongdoja], is for us to deeply cherish the fact that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's ideology and theory are the banner of the victory of socialism.

It is important to realize that the faith in the leader [yongdoja] means the faith in the validity and greatness of the leader's [yongdoja] ideology and theory. Based on keen insight in the demand of the developing reality, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il always put forth scientific ideology, theory, strategies, and tactics. By so doing, he constantly provided means for winning victories.

The revolutionary documents published by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il gave scientific answers to urgent theoretical and practical issues arising on the road of socialism. Therefore, they firmly guaranteed the victory of socialism.

The dear leader comrade's documents, including "The Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party" and "Vilification of Socialism Cannot Be Allowed," and the KPA supreme commander's recent order, gave our people the firm faith in victory.

Our party members and working people should more deeply cherish the belief that the dear leader comrade's ideology and theory are powerful ideological and theoretical weapons for all victories and that they are sure to win a victory thanks to this ideology and theory.

It is important for the party members and the working people to have a good knowledge of the history of our socialist victory by defending our party's ideology. Because the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il developed and completed the chuche-oriented socialist ideology, it was possible for our people, filled with faith and fighting spirit, to win victories on the single road of socialism.

We should firmly believe that when we follow the road elucidated by the chuche-oriented socialist ideology we can gain certain victory. We should firmly arm ourselves with the party's ideology and thoroughly implement it.

While having faith in the revolutionary victory it is also important to deeply realize the extraordinary nature of the leadership of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander, who has an iron will and matchless fortitude.

The socialist cause is defended, safeguarded, and advanced in a constant confrontation to repulse the imperialists' challenge. Victory or loss in the confrontation lies in the will and grit of the revolutionary leader [yongdoja].

The iron will, matchless grit, and extraordinary strategies of respected and beloved comrade supreme commander are prominent and great ones capable of defeating any of the powerful imperialists.

Comrade supreme commander has the indomitable will, grit, and strategy to defend socialism to the end by determinedly smashing the assault of any strong aggressors. That will, grit, and strategy make it possible for all of the party and all of the people to fight bravely with indomitable faith and will while resolutely defending the socialist cause. That will, grit, and strategy also make it possible for all of the party and all of the people to win a victory by turning misfortune into fortune and adversity into prosperity.

Our party members and working people should more deeply realize the greatness of the dear leader's leadership and traits. Our party members and working people should staunchly fight with the faith that, as long as there is the comrade supreme commander's leadership, they can determinedly smash any imperialist aggressors.

Under the present circumstances, in which comrade supreme commander issued an order to check and frustrate the imperialists' arrogant challenge and war provocation maneuvers, our party members and working people should consolidate the faith that as long as there exists the dear leader comrade with extraordinary leadership they are sure to win a victory.

It is also important in having firm faith in victory to know clearly how powerful the single-hearted unity around the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander is.

Unity is the most powerful weapon in a confrontation with imperialism. The single-hearted unity in which all of the party, all of the people, and all of the army are firmly united around comrade supreme commander is matchless strength.

The present situation shows that, though the imperialists are maneuvering with arrogance, they can never cope with the might of our single-hearted unity.

We should understand more deeply that, as long as the party, the army, and the people are united in one mind around the great leader [yongdoja], there is no enemy they cannot defeat. At the same time, all of the party, all of the people, and all of the army should consolidate their single-hearted unity by more firmly and faithfully rallying around the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander.

Party organizations should conduct ideological indoctrination to lead the party members and the people to cherish faith in victory more deeply. The propaganda work about the greatness of the party and the leader is important for encouraging the people to have a firmer faith in victory.

Through propaganda, party organizations should explain to the party members and working people the truth that only when they uphold the great leader [yongdoja] can they win certain victory. In particular, the party organizations should thoroughly explain and propagandize the great and tested leadership of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander using concrete materials.

In addition, party organizations should get the party members and the working people to realize that the revolutionary road led by comrade supreme commander is the most sacred road of struggle to the independence of the popular masses and to defending the security and supreme interests of the country.

Correction to Roundtable Talk on NPT Withdrawal

SK2703011093

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Further on Nuclear Treaty Withdrawal: 'Roundtable Talk' on Withdrawal," published in the 26 March East Asia DAILY REPORT, page 11:

First column, make subslug read: ...Yi Sang-kun, head of the Radiochemical Research Institute; and Choe... (correcting name of institute throughout item).

South Korea

Reaction to DPRK's Nuclear Treaty Withdrawal Continues

ROK Denies Team Spirit Cancellation

SK3003064993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0630 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Washington, March 29 [date as received] (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government denied reports Monday that it will consider permanently cancelling annual Seoul-Washington military exercise "Team Spirit " if Pyongyang returns to Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). "Such press reports are not true," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement released here during Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu's U.S. trip.

Han had been quoted as telling accompanying South Korean reporters Saturday that Seoul might permanently drop Team Spirit if Pyongyang turned back its decision to leave the NPT. "North Korea's obligation to receive nuclear inspection is a responsibility owed to the international community," said the statement, "the obligation, therefore, is a separate issue that cannot be linked to Team Spirit."

ROK, U.S. Agree on 'Tougher Action'

SK3003022993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0202 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Washington, March 29 [date as received] (YONHAP)—Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu said Monday that South Korea and the United States had agreed that it was desirable to take tough measures progressively and in stages against North Korea over the nuclear issue. "Tougher action (against North Korea) can be taken if all efforts to dissuade it from leaving the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty fail," Han told Korean correspondents, winding up his talks with U.S. Government leaders.

The efforts would include letters or visits with North Korean leaders by the United Nations secretary-general or chairman of the Security Council, adoption of a Security Council resolution and dialogue between South and North Korea or between North Korea and the United States, Han said. Han thus indicated that South Korea and the United States intend to try and persuade North Korea first and then impose sanctions if Pyongyang persists in refusing to accept special inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of its nuclear facilities. In their efforts to persuade North Korea, South Korea and the United States would take a two-pronged approach, Han said.

Declaring that referring the North Korean nuclear issue to the U.N. Security Council was no longer avoidable, Han said that South Korea and the United States would try to convince North Korea of the adverse consequences of its refusal to accept IAEA special inspections through international organizations. At the same time, in their separate contacts with North Korea, South Korea and the United States would try to explain the "positive side" if Pyongyang retracts its decision to withdraw from the NPT and accepts special IAEA inspections, Han said.

Han stressed, however, that it wasn't the right time for South Korea, the United States and North Korea to hold a conference or high-level U.S.-North Korean talks. The current councilor-level contact between North Korea and the United States in Beijing was good enough, Han said. But other levels of contact should not be ruled out, Han added, hinting that high-level talks between Washington and Pyongyang could be a possibility.

Han acknowledged that the question of military action against North Korea was being raised by certain quarters in the United States, but said it was never brought up in his talks with officials of President Bill Clinton's administration. "Stopping North Korea from possessing nuclear arms without resorting to a military clash is our paramount goal," Han said.

Han said he had asked the Clinton administration to urge China to persuade North Korea. Though China wanted to take time in persuading North Korea, Beijing, too, would come to believe that it was inevitable for the United Nations Security Council to take up the North Korean nuclear issue, Han said. China also realized that North Korea should not be allowed to possess nuclear weapons, Han said.

Scholars Urge New Nuclear Policy

SK2803083493 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 24 Mar 93 p 21

[By correspondent Yi Chun-sam]

[Text] North Korea rejected a special inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. It even dared to take the extreme action of withdrawing from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], in an attempt to maximize its negotiating leverage by using the nuclear card. Domestic specialists believe that ways to eliminate various obstacles to using atomic power peacefully and ways to ensure our independent right to nuclear development should be found.

A seminar sponsored by the ROK Public Policy Society was held at the Hilton Hotel in Seoul on 20 March to discuss the subject "Reconsideration of Policy to Denuclearize the Korean Peninsula." Those who gave papers on the subject, primarily young scholars including international politics scholars and nuclear technological specialists, pointed out the shortsightedness and weakness of the Sixth Republic's nuclear policy. They added that we should strengthen our independent position to make up for inferiority in nuclear diplomacy before it is too late.

The readers unanimously asserted that the discussion on nuclear policy should begin with a clear distinction between nuclear energy industry and nuclear armament.

Pak Kun-chol, a nuclear engineering professor at Seoul National University, said: "Atomic power plants account for more than half of the total power generation in our country. Therefore, we need technology to enrich and reprocess nuclear fuel in order to ensure a stable supply. Professor Pak added: "After the joint declaration on denuclearization on the Korean peninsula came into effect, technology to reprocess nuclear fuel has been misunderstood as being technology for military purposes." Reprocessing technology enables us to maximize the utilization of energy resources because the reprocessing technology not only makes it easier to reduce nuclear waste and store it by utilizing used nuclear fuel but also increases the usefulness of uranium. However, we were prejudiced by a concept called technology for military purposes and gave up the reprocessing technology. Professor Pak said that this is due to our lack of an independent nuclear policy.

Doctor Chon Ung at the Socioscience Research Institute suggested: "We should work out ways to withdraw our declaration on giving up facilities to enrich and reprocess nuclear fuel." Doctor Chon said: "We should push ahead with a nuclear energy development plan for peaceful purposes on condition we give up nuclear armament." He also insisted: "In exchange for abandoning nuclear armament, we should begin diplomatic negotiations with the United States to obtain facilities to enrich and reprocess nuclear fuel."

Doctor Chon also noted ways to establish nuclear sovereignty. He pointed out that our total dependence on the United States in dealing with the nuclear issue resulted in our pursuing a nuclear policy that runs counter to our interests. He also said that we failed to hold our independent line based on our needs and interests because we had entrusted the initiative concerning countermeasures toward North Korea totally to the United States.

What particularly draws our attention is that the gist of the papers read at the seminar stressed the importance of cultivating our nuclear potential with the precondition that a strict distinction be made between the peaceful use of atomic power and nuclear armament.

Yi Chun-kun, member of the Saejong Research Institute, suggested the following possibilities: a diminishing presence of U.S. troops, who are responsible for stability on the Korean peninsula; and continuing Japanese and Chinese military build-up. Japan may even choose to promote nuclear armament if the ROK feels that conventional military strength is not enough to deal with the current situation. After stating these possibilities, he asserted: "The ROK does not have to blindly reject nuclear armament."

Nuclear armament cannot be achieved overnight. Therefore, it is necessary to cultivate our nuclear ability.

Doctor Han Yong-sop, an official in the armament control office at the National Defense Ministry, said that since the PRC is likely to build up its nuclear weapons steadily and Japan will continue to accumulate plutonium, the ROK may feel it necessary to push ahead with its military build-up as part of its strategy. However, he also said: "Nuclear disarmament and a strategy for nuclear nonproliferation, which are aimed at increasing regional security and fostering nuclear reduction, will be more effective."

Paper Interviews DPRK Envoy to Austria

SK3003073993 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 30 Mar 93 p 9

[Interview with Kim Kwang-sop, North Korean ambassador to Austria, by correspondent Pae Myong-pok at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Headquarters on 29 March—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Ambassador Kim Kwang-sop was appointed to North Korean ambassador to Austria and to its permanent international organization mission in Vienna in late February. He is President Kim Il-song's son-in-law and served as North Korean ambassador to Czechoslovakia in the past. He is also well-known as an influential person in North Korea. After he presented his credentials, he officially started his diplomatic work in Vienna.

[Pae Myong-pok] North Korea has refused the IAEA's request for special inspection. Is there any possible change in North Korea's official position on the IAEA's request?

[Kim Kwang-sop] No. We strongly refuse the IAEA's unjust inspection of our military facilities [kunsa sisol]. This is our firm position. No changes will take place in our position. There is no reason for change in our position.

[Pae] Is it possible for Pyongyang to send people to the IAEA Board of Governors meeting slated for 31 March?

[Kim] I do not know for sure. As I have said, our position remains unchanged, and I do not think Pyongyang needs to send people to the meeting.

[Pae] Do you think that the IAEA will present the North Korean issue to the UN Security Council?

[Kim] Whether or not the IAEA presents the issue to the UN Security Council is the IAEA Board of Governors' problem. If the issue is brought up by the IAEA to the UN Security Council, it will present a problem for the Security Council. We did not violate the agreement reached between the DPRK and the IAEA. We cannot understand why the IAEA wants to present the issue to the UN Security Council. However, if the issue is brought to the UN Security Council, we will bravely express our just position. We do not know why China officially announced its position that it had opposed the presentation of the DPRK issue to the UN Security Council. However, it is worth our attention.

[Pae] It has been learned that you recently met with IAEA Secretary General Hans Blix. What did you discuss with him?

[Kim] It was a courtesy call to present my credentials to him. We did not discuss the nuclear issue.

[Pae] Without considering special inspections, why do you refuse even general inspections of already reported nuclear facilities?

[Kim] The issue at hand is the special inspection issue, not the general inspection issue.

[Pae] Rumors are that President Kim Il-song is in very bad health. What is your opinion on this?

[Kim] There have been more terrible rumors about him in the past. We found that they were groundless. I think the truth will be revealed soon.

Intelligence Official: DPRK 'Unlikely To Start a War'

SK2903070193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0549 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 29 (YONHAP)—North Korea is unlikely to start a war in spite of its leaving the family of nations committed to preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, a ranking intelligence official said Monday. Briefing Yi Ki-taek and other opposition Democratic Party leaders on the situation of North Korea, Kim Chong-won, second deputy director of the Agency for National Security Planning, said that North Korea had enough oil for only three months and was suffering a severe food shortage.

Diplomatic efforts to persuade Pyongyang to reverse its decision to pull out of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and to allow International Atomic Energy Agency special inspections of suspected nuclear facilities as well as mutual inspections of nuclear facilities in South and North Korea would continue, Kim said. If the U.N.

Security Council slapped economic sanctions on North Korea, China would have no choice but to support them or face western retaliation detrimental to its pursuit of a market economy, he said.

DPRK Funds Shortage Cause Lag in Science Level

SK2703015193 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 Mar 93 p 3

[Text] North Korea is suffering a shortage of personnel and funds for research and development in science and technology mainly because of its isolationist economic policy based on "chuche," or self-reliance ideology.

For that reason, the hardline communist state lags far behind South Korea and other capitalist countries in levels of science and technology, according to a recent report by the Korean Federation of Science and Technology Societies.

In this connection, North Korea is making a desperate effort to lure foreign investment in R&D activities through the help of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and other international organizations. The projected development of the Tumen River basin is part of such efforts, a federation official said.

An estimated 300 institutes are engaged in scientific and technological research activities in North Korea.

The North Korean government is concentrating its financial support on R&D in machinery, metallurgy and the chemical industry because of its heavy industry-oriented policy, the official analyzed.

Recently, North Korea is turning attention to the development of integrated circuits (ICs) and computers and automation of machinery production.

The Department of Science and Education under the Central Committee of the ruling Workers' Party works out plans on R&D programs and controls the activities of the institutes.

Controversy Over Assets Disclosures Continues

Vice Ministers Fired

SK3003093393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0859 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 30 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government sacked five vice minister-level officials Tuesday in connection with the controversy over their disclosed assets. The five are Chong Song-chin, chief of the central investigation department of the prosecutor general's office; Choe Sin-sok, senior prosecutor for criminal division of the prosecutor general's office; Cho Kyu-il, vice agriculture, forestry and fisheries minister; Kang Sin-tae, administrator of the Korean National Railroad; and Kang Tu-hyon, a standing member of the police committee.

Prime Minister Hwang In-song told a news conference that the government had accepted the resignations of the five and that it would warn some other high-ranking officials in the controversy. Hwang also said that the five vacancies thus created would be soon filled so as not to hamper government administration.

Stressing that the government was careful to prevent any chaos in the process of disclosure, Hwang said, and that it had taken appropriate action against those who were clouded by suspicion or controversy over their wealth. Maintaining that the government had virtually completed the disclosure of assets by high-ranking officials, Hwang said every civil servant should devote himself or herself to serving the nation and the people in a clean manner, and thus to participating in the creation of a new Korea.

He refused, however, to go into details about the number of high-powered officials who were reprimanded. "They have broken no law, but could come under fire from the public," Hwang explained.

Resignations 'Challenge' Kim

SK3003005593 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 30 Mar 93 p 2

[By staff correspondent Kim Song-pok]

[Text] President Kim Yong-sam's reform drive has run into a pothole as Rep. Pak Chun-kyu yesterday chose to leave the party headed by Kim instead of bowing to the pressure on him to give up his Assembly seat. Rep. Kim Chae-sun, former House speaker and predecessor of Rep. Pak, declared his resignation from politics in a way that smacked of a challenge to President Kim. The incumbent and erstwhile speakers were under pressure to quit the Assembly for "unethically" amassing a fortune and the dishonest manner in which they went public with their wealth.

Kim Chae-sun unmistakably denounced President Kim, citing the adage, "After catching the hare, the hunter kills his hunting dog." For the first month of his five-year term, President Kim has been eager to purify officialdom as well as political circles. The disclosure of the assets of public servants and legislators was the juggernaut of President Kim's top down drive to "restore morality and sweep away corruption."

Three lawmakers of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] have so far resigned from the Assembly and a dozen more legislators are expected to be relieved of their Assembly or party posts or reprimanded. In face of the gale of changes, the Assemblymen appeared to be keeping a low profile lest they should also become "political fall guys."

Some of the DLP lawmakers even cast a suspicious eye at President Kim's energetic push for the disclosure of wealth. They vented their hard feelings against the press which has carried headlines about their "unaccountable" wealth as well as implication in real estate speculation.

However, the public and reform drivers denounced that they are egocentrists, who are scheming to trip President Kim in his pursuit of reform. A Chongwadae [presidential office] source revealed yesterday that Kim Chae-sun was found to have gone beyond the press reports in his real estate speculation and unethical amassing of money.

A trickle from the DLP, started by Pak Chun-kyu, may turn into a torrent. But the view in general is that it will have little chance. The "revolters" certainly believed that their political life has been brought to an end inside the Kim's party, a thought that might prod them to react in a way construed as a challenge to President Kim. If they try to rally together, they may face heavier disciplinary measures from President Kim, probably legal steps, as well as public opinion.

People in the street cry out for punishment sternly and laud President Kim's reform drive. Kim has not turned his ear from public opinion in his political career for the past four decades. He is believed to have stern measures in store for the accused, although he does not want to go further in the investigation of legislators wealth.

DLP Disclosures Reviewed

SK3003104993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0907 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 30 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) capped the controversy over asset disclosure by its members with five resignations, an expulsion and at least 15 warnings, five of them public, to lawmakers Tuesday. Reps. Kim Chae-sun, Yu Hak-song, and Kim Mun-ki had given up their parliamentary seats, National Assembly Speaker Pak Chun-kyu and Rep. Yim Chun-won had left the party, and Chong Tong-ho would be kicked out, DLP Executive Chairman Kim Chong-pil said.

Reps. Yi Won-cho, Kum Chin-ho, Cho Chin-hyong, Kim Yong-chin and Nam Pyong-u would be given open warnings in the name of party President Kim Yong-sam, but 10 others guilty of lesser wrongdoings would not face open warnings, Kim said. Chong, who refused to leave the party on his own will, is to be expelled Wednesday according to party regulations, he said. Those given warnings are likely to have difficulty winning nomination in the next election and Kum, Cho and Nam, who face public warnings, may give up their district party chairmanships.

Kim apologized to the public for the scandal over party members' financial disclosures. "All of us have deeply repented and pledged to devote ourselves to the building of a new Korea, bearing in mind what the public requires of us," Kim said. The National Assembly would revise the law's provisions on public servants' ethics to legalize asset disclosure by public officials and lawmakers and offset problems in the process, he said. The DLP would concentrate on mapping out basic policies so that real estate did not become subject to speculation in the future and would demolish structural factors in society that encourage corruption, party spokesman Kang Chae-sop said.

After the controversy over asset disclosure calms down, the DLP is expected to undergo a major reshuffle to breathe fresh air into the party. Inside sources said the ruling party might take Pak Chun-kyu, Yim, and Chong, who ignored requests to resign from the National Assembly and instead left the party or had to be forced to leave, to court over the legality of their accumulation of riches.

But because Pak may forsake his parliamentary seat after an explanatory speech to the plenary assembly session next month and because Yim has said he will donate some of his wealth to society, the two may avoid legal actions against them, sources said. The DLP is also studying whether to encourage lawmakers to voluntarily donate their wealth to society, the sources said.

Former Candidate Discloses Assets

SK3003040693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0233 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 30 (YONHAP)—Rep. Pak Chan-chong, head of the minor opposition New Political Reform Party, declared assets of 1.15 billion won Tuesday, or 948 million won at the officially appraised value. He told a news conference at his party office that he had assets of 875 million won, including a 735 million-won house and a 90 million-won fee owed him by the Namyang Dairy Products Co. for appearing in a television commercial. His wife, Chong Ki-ho, and his daughter, Pak Chu-hye, were worth 315 million won and 10 million won, respectively, he said.

Pak said he had debts of 2.21 billion won pending a court decision. The financial disclosures of high-ranking government officials, he said, were not "objective and fair" because there were no standards. He then called for an anti-corruption law, revision to the political fund law, and asset disclosure by former presidents.

Defense Ministry Finalizes Reorganization Plan

SK2803005893 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 28 Mar 93 p 3

[Text] The Defense Ministry has finalized a plan to restructure its organization and the Defense Security Command (DSC) to help keep pace with the civilian administration's move to scale down government agencies. The reshaping scheme is featured, among other things, by a merger of the policy-making office into the planning and management department and scale-down of the security command. The policy-making office has been controlled by an Army lieutenant general in the active-duty service.

The DSC, whose structure is to undergo a tangible scale-down, will be brought under the direct control of the defense minister as a staff. Until the inauguration of President Kim Yong-sam's administration late last month, the public has sometimes denounced the security command for abusing its power to protect the regimes led by general-turned politicians.

Its commander made direct reports to the Chief Executive, bypassing his immediate superior, the defense minister. President Kim ordered the commander to report to the minister, not to him any more.

A senior official said yesterday that Defense Ministry Kwon Yong- hae would report the reorganization plan tomorrow to President Kim, commander in chief of the Armed Forces. Under the restructuring plan, the ministry plans to expand the arms control section into an independent organization to better cope with the future South-North arms reduction talks, separating the section from the policy-making office. The new arms control setup will be headed by an assistant minister-level official in line with the reorganization plan.

The DSC has come to scrap the intelligence office, withdraw security officials from the ministries and agencies and shut down provincial detachments completely in accordance with the reshaping plan. The official added that personnel reduction at the command would be made through retirement. The ministry, meanwhile, appointed Lt. Gen. Chang Song, directors of the policy-making office and a graduate of the Korea Military Academy's 18th Class, the first deputy chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, promoting him to a four-star general.

Ministry Notes Plan To Improve Security Command

SK2903124293 Seoul YONHAP in English 1223 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 29 (YONHAP)—The Defense Ministry on Monday announced a "plan to improve the operation of the Defense Security Command (DSC)," which, among others, limits the DSC duties to military-related matters only. The plan, made public after it was reported to President Kim Yong-sam earlier in the day, also places the DSC under the direct control of the defense minister.

In the past, the DSC commander used to make reports directly to the president over the head of the defense minister. Under the new plan, DSC agents will be prohibited from surveiling government and other civilian organizations, and accordingly its office of intelligence charged with gathering information on civilians will be abolished. Also under the plan, the DSC would be allowed to keep its field detachments at division- and higher-level military units only, and reduce its manpower by about 1,000.

DSC agents will further be made to behave in ways becoming of their respective ranks and will not be allowed to infringe in any way on the rights of command of unit commanders. The Defense Ministry, meanwhile, decided to move the DSC headquarters from the existing downtown area in Seoul to elsewhere, the announcement said.

Air Force Chief of Staff Opens Office to Enlisted Men

SK3003082193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0659 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Taejon, March 30 (YONHAP)—The winds of reform are also sweeping the nation's armed forces and the Air Force takes the lead among three branches of armed forces to open the office of the Chief of Staff to officers and enlisted men for the first time. The Air Force has decided to establish a petition center in the office of the chief of staff from April 1 where the chief himself will hear complaints and suggestions from officers and enlisted men about their difficulties and on ways to improve the system.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Yi Yang-ho and other commanding officers held a meeting Tuesday afternoon and resolved to drive out corruption from the service in line with President Kim Yong-sam's reform efforts. The opening of the Air Force Chief of Staff's office to officers and enlisted men is part of a three-point resolution adopted at the meeting. "It aims at listening to first-hand voices of men to improve military life," a spokesman said. Starting Thursday, anyone who has something to tell or advise to the Chief of Staff can drop in and spill his beans, the spokesman said.

The resolution also calls for commanding officers and the staff to set an example by actively participating in training and to help dispel the authoritarian atmopsphere. It also warned the wives of officers not to behave as though they are also ranked in accordance with their husbands' positions.

"If officers act in a democratic and reasonable way, men can follow suit," Gen. Yi stressed, adding that reform within the military demanded more patience and hardship. Meanwhile, the Air Force has designated April as the month of "forming solidarity" on the movement and put into practice it from may on, the spokesman explained.

'Comfort Women' Assistance Program Announced

SK2903094793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0821 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 29 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government announced Monday an assistance program for "comfort women," who were forced into prostitution by the Japanese Army during World War II. The government had decided to help these women and it would give financial assistance to the estimated 140 of them who had registered with it soon after presenting legislation to a special National Assembly session in April, Vice Foreign Minister Hong Sun-yong told reporters.

Its first goal was to give each of the estimated 135 women in Korea 5 million won (6,400 U.S. dollars) for immediate necessities plus 206,000 won a month. They will receive free medical insurance coverage and pay reduced rents for government housing. Surviving Korean comfort women registered with the government and living abroad would get a lump sum of 5 million won each, Hong said. Most are living in the United States, China, Thailand, Russian or Canada.

"The decision is part of the government's efforts to heal the wounds of the tragic past for the Korean people," he said, adding that Seoul would not ask Tokyo to pay compensation in connection with the comfort women issue. "The move was also born of a judgment that we can support victims of the tragic past by ourselves from the viewpoint of national pride and self-esteem if Tokyo has the right sense of history and repents its past deeds," Hong argued.

"In this context, we expect Tokyo to show sincerity in its ongoing survey of the matter, the results of which are to be announced in the not too distant future. "The Korean Government shall therefore continue to make efforts to develop forward-looking ties between Seoul and Tokyo," Hong said. "And Tokyo should accept the tragic history in a humble manner and relentlessly strive not to repeat it."

Yu Pyong-u, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's Asian affairs bureau, said that Tokyo should explicitly acknowledge the forceful mobilization of the comfort women and restore their honor, clarify the scope of Japanese military prostitution, continue its efforts to find facts and promise to make its past wrongdoings a historic lesson. He noted, however, that the assistance program was on a governmental level and so couldn't affect individual actions against Tokyo. Seoul would also consider helping those people whom Japan had forced into military service and labor on a long-term basis, he said.

Trade Commission To 'Clampdown' on Large Businesses

SK3003010093 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 30 Mar 93 p 8

[Text] The Fair Trade Commission [FTC] plans to strengthen its clampdown on unfair subcontract trade by large businesses. The clampdown will focus on such industries as electronics, machinery, automobiles and shipbuilding where subcontract trade accounts for much of the deals, FTC officials said. Particularly, among medium- and higher-ranked manufacturers, those who have never undergone an FTC-imposed inspection of subcontract trade before, will be targets of the crackdown, the FTC said.

Last week, the FTC invited representatives of small- and medium- sized companies to hear of instances of unfair subcontract deals. They insisted that many small companies are sustaining a lot of damages from large businesses' arbitrary application of subcontract rules. In many cases, for instance, the prime contractors halt deals after they copy and develop the subcontractor's goods without paying any compensation.

In another example, the prime contractors used to force the subcontractors to cut prices of goods unjustly, cashing in on their superior position, according to the FTC. The FTC said the spread of unfair subcontract deals has contributed much to putting small- and medium-sized businesses in more difficult positions. As part of its substantial efforts, the FTC will call regular meetings with large businesses to demand corrections of these unfair practices while conducting broad-based inspections of unfair subcontract deals. The FTC will also strengthen rules governing subcontract trade to root out unfair subcontract deals.

Hyundai Builds Improved Experimental MAGLEV Train

SK3003035593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0219 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 30 (YONHAP)—Hyundai Precision and Industry Co. of South Korea has built an experimental magnetically levitated (MAGLEV) train for this summer's Taejon Expo that can negotiate curves. The "HML-03" weighs 28 tons and has a top speed of 150 kilometers an hour. It floats 12 millimeters above the track with a load of 40 passengers and will be demonstrated to the public from Aug. 8 at the Taejon international exposition, a Hyundai spokesman said Tuesday. Developed over two years, it uses a normal-conductivity attracting magnet that is 17.6 meters long, 3 meters wide and 3 meters high.

The train, operating 10 hours a day, will carry an estimated 300,000 passengers during the three-month exposition, the spokesman said. Hyundai made 85 percent of the MAGLEV train, jointly developed with the Korea Electro-Technology Research Institute (KERI) under the wing of the Science and Technology Ministry, except for sophisticated sensors that had to be imported.

The train will run at a maximum speed of 50 kmph on the Expo track, which is just 560 meters long and has 198 meters of curves. Hyundai hoped to commercialize the train in a few years if further tests prove to be successful, the spokesman added. The HML-03 replaces the less-sophisticated HML-02, which was rolled out in January 1991.

ROK May Join Japan, Russia in Marine Pollution Study

SK3003035893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0228 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 30 (YONHAP)—Seoul hopes oceanographers from South Korea, Japan, and Russia will jointly investigate the possibility of radioactive pollution in the East Sea, where the Soviet Union dumped nuclear waste, a Foreign Ministry official said Tuesday. The Foreign Ministry received material on the dumping of nuclear waste in the East Sea from the

Japanese Embassy in Seoul on Monday. Russians abandoned low-level liquid and solid radioactive waste in the East Sea between 1974 and 1992, according to the Japanese materials.

Seoul will join the London-based Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping Wastes and Other Matters this year and revise its Marine Pollution Prevention Law to fully equip itself with the legal means to fight marine pollution, the official said. "To confirm the question of East Sea radioactive pollution and the exact site of nuclear waste dumping, the government is seeking cooperation from private institutions at home and Russia's Pacific Oceanographic Instutute," the official said, adding that Japan had also shown interest in the matter.

ROK Normalizes Relations With Madagascar

SK3003034293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0211 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 30 (YONHAP)—South Korea has normalized diplomatic relations with the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, the Foreign Ministry announced Tuesday. Ambassador to France No Yong-chan, sent to the island off the southeast coast of Africa as a congratulatory envoy on President Albert Zafy's inauguration, paid a courtesy call on Zafy and they agreed on rapprochement just before he was sworn in on March 27, the announcement said. Korea established diplomatic relations with Madagascar in 1962, but the African country had refused to accept a Korean envoy since a leftist military coup d'etat in 1972.

* Kim Behind-the-Scenes Reform Teams

932C0086A Seoul CHUGAN CHOSON in Korean 25 Feb 93 pp 10-131

[Article by reporter U Chong-chang: "Kim Yong-sam Has Three Reform Teams—'Hansayon, YS Group [Young Society Group], and Sinhanyon'"]

[Text] In connection with the push for reform in the Kim Yong-sam era, some groups are emerging as "influential forces." They number three or four. One of them is made up of university professors, another centers on former dissidents, and another consists of a group of Ph.D.'s in their thirties. The members of these groups are not engaged in politics and do not want to be identified as politicians.

Nevertheless they organized their independent groups during the last presidential election and did their level best for the election of candidate Kim Yong-sam. Moreover, President-elect Kim are listening to their opinions in connection with the future reform of state administration. In this sense they are emerging as the groups that must be reckoned with. It is speculated that they are assuming an extraordinary importance in President-election Kim's reform plan.

Three of these groups are currently at the center of attention. They are: the Korean Social Affairs Research Institute (abbreviated to Hansayon) led by Seoul University Professors Han Wan-sang and Yi Myong-hyon; the Citizens Federation for the Creation of a New Korea (abbreviated to Sinhanyon) led by Kim Chong-nam, a dissident outside the political mainstream; and the Young Society Group (abbreviated to YS Group) led by Lawyer Yi Chung-pom.

These three groups share the same goal despite their differences in name and composition. They believe that "there is no other person than Kim Yong-sam that we can choose at this time for the future of our country"; and they seek to have their desire for reform realized through him. That is why during the presidential election, they organized their groups and worked out election pledges and wrote campaign speeches for candidate Kim Yong-sam, and gave reasons "why we have got to choose Kim Yong-sam."

Of the three, the "YS Group" is the one that is the focus of the attention for the man in the street not only because it is the only young "policy-preparing group" around the president-elect but also because his second son, Hyon-chol (34), is involved in it. The Young Society was named after YS [the abbreviation of Kim Yong-sam's given name].

Lawyer Yi Chung-pom, is a graduate of Kyonggi High School and the Seoul University Law School and passed the (27th) state law examination in 1985. He established Chonghae Welfare Foundation in February 1988 at the Tusong Building at 723-2 Sangdo 1-tong, Tongjak-ku, Seoul, with 70 or so charter members, including some 40 lawyers as well as doctors, businessmen, and professors about his age. The foundation provides free legal counsel to the needy and operates a free nursery for their children. It also runs the "House of Love" for grown up orphans because they have to leave their orphanages when they reach the age of 18. Recently, it has started a campaign to help second-generation Koreans born in Vietnam. Kim Yong-sam heard of Lawyer Yi's social activities through his son, Hyon-chol. The elder Kim appreciated the lawyer's activities saying, "the young man is doing good things."

Lawyer Yi organized the "YS Group" last June. Its prospectus reads: "In correcting our national history warped in the process of modernization, firmly establishing democracy in our country, and formulating a long-term national management strategy, intellectuals in their thirties have an important role to play. We in our thirties now, who some day will play the leading role, cannot just sit and wait, can we? Kim Yong-sam is the greatest and best choice we can make at this juncture. That is why we must make him president."

In response to the call of Lawyer Yi, 50 young men in their thirties joined the YS Group. Their occupations are diverse—young economists working at the Korea Development Institute (KDI) and other national policy institutes, young political scientists working as university lecturers; scholars working in civilian research institutes; government officials, and journalists. Their age generally ranges from early thirties to late thirties. The first thing they did after forming the YS Group was the formulation of policies to be presented by Kim Yong-sam in the presidential campaign. The YS Group was divided into three subcommittees, political, economic, and social. These subcommittees met once every week and completed "Comprehensive Report I—Public Policy Pledges" in last August.

In the preparation of this report, Kim I-kon (35), director of "Korea Polytech Institute," played the leading role. He graduated from Masan High-school and the Yonsei University School of Political Science and Diplomacy. The report consists of: the Basic Platform (10 basic tenets, five policy directions for achieving leaping economic strides, three directions for stability, and five directions for reform); and the Basic Policy Pledges (achieving a small but strong government, recovering the trust in politics, preparing the springboard for the advancement of our nation, making leaping strides toward the advanced stage of economic development, executing financial reform, achieving stability in the housing and real estate business, and building a society in which all share prosperity. The report was submitted to Kim Yong-sam through Hyon-chol.

During the presidential campaign, Kim Yong-sam met with YS Group members on two occasions. In these meetings the group explained the purpose of its inauguration and made a recommendation on the basis of the policy studies it was making. Kim Yong-sam praised the YS group saying, "I appreciate your valuable suggestions. I want you young people to continue to present your good opinions." Following the submission of the first report, the group pooled their efforts to must public opinion behind Kim Yong-sam so that he might win the presidential race.

Following Kim Yong-sam's victory in the presidential election, the YS Group changed itself into a friendship society. Explaining the reason, a member of the group said: "Now that we have accomplished our purpose to assist Kim Yong-sam in policy aspects and make him win the presidential election, we have no other thing to do. That is why we have decided to become a friendship society." Members of the group said: "True, the YS group maintains close ties with Hyon-chol. But the report that he is leading our group is unfounded."

The second group that is in the limelight after the YS group is Hansayon led by Seoul University Professor Han Wan-sang, 57. The institute opened its office in Minwon Building 1104 in Youido, Seoul, in last June. Hansayon recently removed its sign from the office for the same reason as the YS group cited, namely, it had nothing more to do. The person who supported this institute behind-the-scenes was Assemblyman Kim Tok-yong, President-elect Kim's key aide.

Originally, Hansayon started as Prof. Han Wan-sang's personal research establishment. He had been closer to Kim Tae-chung than Kim Yong-sam before he began to call for "Kim Yong-sam as the single candidate of the opposition camp" in the 1987 presidential election. He worked in a three-room office with three staff members. When the presidential race got into high gear, his office turned into a general campaign headquarters for Kim Yong-sam. Apart from the DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] presidential campaign planning committee (chaired by Choe Pyong-yol), the headquarters handled various matters related to the election campaign.

As time went by, the number of people frequenting the headquarters rapidly increased. Prof. Yi Myong-hyon of Seoul National University and Dr. Cha Tong-se of Lucky-Goldstar Economic Research Institute practically worked there every day. In addition, Assemblymen Choe Hyong-u, Kim Tok-yong, and Pak Kwan-yong, as well as Yi Won-chon (DLP deputy spokesman) and Yi Kyong-chae (special assistant for public relations) were there every time they had something to discuss about in secret. Kim Hyong-chol also was from time to time as a member. Many other university professors worked there on condition that they not be identified. A professor who worked there said, "I participated in it so that I could join in reforming our society through Ki Yong-sam," adding, but "I wanted to keep my anonymity."

The recent rumor circulating in the street that Prof. Han Wan-sang may become Chongwade senior secretary stems from his activities with Hansayon. His close associate said, "I heard such a rumor." However, he added, "Professor Han's family and everyone around him want him to go back to teaching." While being skeptical about the chances of Professor Han becoming Chongwadae senior secretary, the same associate said, "it is possible that if Professor Han becomes a cabinet member, people will take it as a sign that the dissident forces are undergoing change in favor of reform."

Sinhanyon is an assembly of those political activists who have been engaged in antigovernment activities. Some of its key members were once behind bars. Its Chairman Kim Chong-nam, 52, a graduate of the College of Liberal Art and Sciences, played the leading role in bringing to light those cases that would otherwise have remained buried, such as the 1974 case involving the Federation of Youths and Students for Democratic Movement [minchong hangnyon], the 1986 case involving the information guideline, and the 1987 case of Pak Chong-chol, who was tortured to death. Central Council member Dr. Son Chong- pak, 51, worked as a miner after graduating from the Seoul University Department of Political Science. He was the standard-bearer of what is known as the "young generation working as laborers to conceal their identity." He served his five-year term in prison for his conspiracy with Kim Nak-chung in the case involving MINUJI, an organ of the NH Club in Korea University.

While farming in the countryside after his release, Dr. Son resumed his social activity as a founder of Sinhanyon.

Central Committee Chairman Song Chol-won was the chairman of the campus inspection and investigation committee of Seoul National University student organization in 1964 while enrolled in that university. He was imprisoned on charges of sedition for his involvement in the case of the Research Council for Comparative Studies of Nationalism (Minbiryon). The key members of the central committee include Pak Chae-il, former chairman of the Catholic Farmers Association; Yu Kwan-on, who was chairman of the Koryo University General Student Association in 1967; and I Mu-han, former editor in chief of MINJU ILBO—all former "students of the school of nationalism" who were engaged in a democratic movement under the late Chang Chung-ha.

Sinhanyon held its first meeting at the Korea Institute for Intellectual Society on 8 September last year with nine key members, including Chairman Kim Chong-nam, present. Subsequently, it met on many occasions to formulate its stand in favor of Kim Yong-sam through a document for internal consumption, titled "Why We Have No Other Choice But To Support Kim Yong-sam." Sinhanyon was officially launched when it held an inaugural meeting and a training session combined on 7 and 8 November last year at the Youth Hotel in Koyang, Kyonggi province.

There were a total of 420 promoters, including 171 small and medium-scale businessmen, 55 workers, 21 financiers, 27 educators, 15 doctors, four lawyers, 13 journalists, four men of culture and art, four clergymen, 26 youths, 50 women, and 41 others. The key members belong to the 3 June generation (those who engaged in a campaign against the 1962 ROK-Japan talks) and the generation of Minchong Hangnyon; and they have one thing in common, that is, that they took part at least once in antigovernment demonstrations during their college days.

In last June, prior to its official start, Sinhanyon published jointly with Seoul University Prof Yi Myong-hyon a book titled "Kim Yong-sam's New Korea 2000." Its office is located on the 10th floor of the Sinyong Mutual Credit Bank building in Yeuido, Seoul. During the presidential election, Sinhanyon was involved in preparing TV speeches for Kim Yong-sam and his message delivered upon his election president.

Chairman Kim Chong-nam is the one who arranged the 9 January meeting between President-elect Kim and eight dissident figures, including Rev. Pak Hyong-kyu and Lawyer Yi Ton-min and who disclosed the substance of their dialogue to the press. For this reason, some observers regard Kim Chong-nam as the man in the van of reform efforts among the Kim Yong-sam circles.

Chairman Kim Chong-nam held face-to-face meetings with Kim Yong-sam on two occasions subsequent to the presidential election. When Chairman Kim asked about reform, President-elect Kim is said to have replied: "Let us meet again after the (presidential inauguration). I will be directly in charge of reform." Kim Yong-sam made it clear that he has no intention of appointing anyone from an entrenched group to a key post when he reportedly said: "I had a hard time until the last moment of the election because of the entrenched interest groups (in allusion to the bolting from the party of Assemblymen Pak Tae-chun and Pak Ku-il). In this last election I ran about single-handedly with no help from NY entrenched interest group. That is why I feel unencumbered, with indebtedness to no one."

Since the presidential race was over, Sinhanyon has suspended all formal activities. With its sign still on, Sinhanyon is just watching political developments. The key substance of reform as conceived by Sinhanyon is in the same vein with President-elect Kim's reform plan in these three points: the elimination of corruption, the revitalization of the economy, the establishment of discipline in the officialdom. At the same time, Sinhanyon earnestly hopes that the president-elect will not conduct his personnel administration in such a way that he apportions key posts between his supporters and the entrenched interest groups.

Hansayon, Sinhanyon, and the YS group are the reform teams lined up around Present-elect Kim. They deny the rumor circulating in the street that their officials will be appointed to key posts in the new government, by pointing out that the president-elect knows various personages in all strata well and frequently gets in touch with them, and that they themselves are only part of these acquaintances.

One of President-elect Kim's key aides said: "There is a large pool of able people with diverse backgrounds around the president-elect, and he is not the type who concentrates power in a particular group," adding, "it will be difficult for the YS Group or any other group for that matter to figure high all of a sudden."

We wonder which group President-elect Kim will use in connection with his reform plan when he assumes the office of the presidency.

* President-Elect Kim's 'Personnel Appointment Style'

Tight Secrecy

932C0084A Seoul CHUGAN CHOSON in Korean 18 Feb 93 pp 10- 14

[Article by reporter Kim Kyo-chun: "President-Elect Kim Yong-sam's Personnel Appointment Style"]

[Text] The word "unique" seems to fit best to describe President-elect Kim's personnel management style, which is unique in process as well as substance. Needless to say, all personnel actions taken in our society, both major and minor, invariably are tinged with the mannerism of each individual who makes the appointments. Comparison of our successive presidents reveals their peculiar styles of personnel management. But in President-elect Kim's case, his intention to carry specific messages through his personnel actions is singularly strong. At times the intensity is out of the ordinary.

The point that needs to be considered in measuring his uniqueness in personnel management is that he attaches greater importance to personnel management than anybody else. Prior to inaugurating his new administration, he is now devoting all his energy to selecting his cabinet and secretariat, including the prime minister and the senior presidential secretary, ahead of all other tasks. "Personnel management is above everything," or "Personnel management is all that counts in politics" is his pet theory. He believes that if he is able to properly manage personnel affairs, he will succeed in reform; but he fails in personnel management, he would become a failed president.

Kim Yong-sam believes that it is possible to resolve regionalism through appropriate personnel actions. He is of the opinion that inasmuch as the gap has widened because the past successive governments neglected the Honam area in personnel management in various fields, there is no other prescription than remedial personnel actions that can cure the sickness of regionalism. For this reason, he is thinking and rethinking about how to find the most suitable persons. He said, "These days I cannot fall asleep before 0200 in the morning." This explains well the extent of his concern about personnel affairs.

He believes that one of the key elements of personnel management is secrecy. He thoroughly conceals his inner mind. Some times he confides to his intimates the secret of his agony over the difficult personnel choices he has to make, but the names of would-be appointees never come out of his mouth. He simply listens. Even if he made a tentative choice in his mind, he won't even inform the person involved of this choice. He gives this reason for his silence: "if the person were told of the tentative choice, he would at least tell his wife about it. The person would act differently the moment he was informed of the choice; and naturally, he would set about making preparations for the forthcoming appointment. From this time on, it would become impossible to maintain the secrecy."

It was not until 30 minute before announcing his transition team that Kim Yong-sam informed DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] Chairman Kim Chong-pil, Transition Team Chairman Chong Won-sik, and DLP Secretary General Kim Yong-ku of his decision. He even tried to keep the time of announcement under wraps. Even Senior Secretary Choe Chang-yun was kept in the dark, and of course, the members of the transition team were not informed in advance.

Needless to say, this style of his has merits and demerits. The shortcoming is that the style is fraught with danger, for his decision cannot be right all the time. Regarding a specific personage, there can be a gap between what Kim Yong-sam knows about him and what others know about him. Overly concerned about secrecy, it is possible for him to make his decision on the basis of erroneous information or prejudice.

On the other hand, the strong point is that his style can protect the persons involved and insure the maximum objectivity of his action. Suppose Kim Yong-sam asks others for comment on a particular person by giving his name, it will touch off a rumor, exposing this person to all sorts of calumny and accusation. This may force Kim Yong-sam to abandon the idea of appointing this particular person he wants to hire, or to hire a person who has been cut up so severely in whisperings among the public. On the contrary, it is possible to be misled by the bloated comment influenced by a campaign to get him appointed.

Kim Yong-sam is using a somewhat intricate method to make the best of the merits and complement the demerits of his style. He listens to numerous people, and on this basis he goes through the process of verifying the qualifications of the person he has in mind as a would-be appointee. He meets official visitors from all walks of life at his party headquarters in the morning, and he meets various personages secretly in the afternoon. He holds an average of three or four "one-on-one" meetings. The number of persons he met for these two months since his election to the presidency probably exceeds 200; and when the persons he has met from time to time without appointment, the number will be much higher.

Suppose each of these persons recommended the candidates for the next prime minister, senior presidential secretary, director of the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP], and director of the Board of Audit one each—not including cabinet members, then the president-elect must have heard a total of more than 800 names recommended. Needless to say, quite a few of the names must have been duplicate.

During a meeting with Kim Yong-sam, a DLP assemblyman was asked to "recommend suitable persons." When he said "I haven't thought about it," the president-elect retorted, "What have you been doing all this time?" The assemblyman after all had to "recommend" several names and explained his reasons for his recommendation before leaving. When the president-elect meets a visitor, it is not unusual for him to ask the guest to make a personnel recommendation and explain his good reasons for it. When he dines with political heavyweights and or young secretaries of his "public opinion analysis group," which analyzes various media reports for him, the president-elect goes out his way to ask, "do you have any suitable persons to recommend?"

Another reason he is taking great pains to maintain secrecy is that he wants to keep the latitude of his choice up to the last minute, just in case a better candidate emerges. That is why people say, "there is no such word as tentative choice in Kim Yong-sam's vocabulary." This is another aspect of President-elect Kim's unique personnel management style.

Those who know him well won't belive any rumor saying that Kim Yong-sam "has tentatively decided to appoint such and such persons to such and such positions." This is not because they have a definite piece of information but because they know his style. When he appoints an outsider, he never promises the prospective appointee any particular post in advance, except in rare cases. "I will offer you an important post" or "I want you to work with me on great tasks" is as far as he goes by way of commitment.

One reason he leaves his commitment fluid is that he does not want to see his cherished maxim that "a promise made must be kept" become empty word. He learned by experience the truth that the best way not to break a promise is to make as few promises as possible. This is to say that inasmuch as "politics is something alive" and nobody knows when and how the situation will change, it is better to keep a wider latitude of choice.

That is why more often than not a person who is not familiar with Kim Yong-sam's style gets disappointed or becomes sulky after meeting with him because the president-elect made no definite promise.

Another important reason the president-elect takes great pains to keep secrecy is his desire to maximize the effects of his personnel actions. If everyone knows in advance who will be appointed, the announcement of the appointment will lose the element of surprise. As a matter of fact, every personnel action reflects the policy hue that the person who makes the appointment seeks to emphasize, be it a determination to carry out reform, or a desire for the all-out mobilization of national resources for the recovery of the economy, or the determination to usher in an era of civilian rule through the liquidation of the military culture. The president-election believes that it will be difficult to fully convey the hues he intends to emphasize to the public if his personnel actions lack freshness. In his opinion, any leakage of information on an appointment prior to its announcement is tantamount to a sapping of authority.

Kim Yong-sam has stuck to his political style characterized by preference to shock remedies ever since he began to advocate that people in their forties should be standard-bearers. When he became the leader of the major opposition party, he often broke with the past practices and took extraordinary personnel actions—he replaced the entire Executive Committee except one member, completely shut out the non-mainstream from party posts, and left the heavyweights of the rival faction out in the cold in party management. His appointment of the transition team to which public attention has been focused since his election was carried out in the same vein. He is so immersed in seeking a fresh surprise that some times an appointment he makes does not measure up to prior expectation, thus drawing the criticism of being a "short comedy."

One who met Kim Yong-sam and recommended someone to him, or who plans to meet him and recommend someone in the future should be aware of this caveat: "If you should recommend someone whom he thinks below par, you might see your own standing fall a notch or two in his eyes."

During the past 39 years since he was first elected to the National Assembly in 1954, he did nothing but meet people. Standing in the center of the political arena beginning in the latter part of the 1960's, he met with personages in all strata, including ruling and opposition party politicians, academics, bureaucrats, religious figures, journalists, lawyers, men of culture, artists, and acquaintances in the dissident groups. He also met with foreign politicians and North Korean officials. It is no exaggeration to say that he has met all distinguished personages. He had ample opportunity to observe and compare the leaders of the past administrations. This experience has cultivated in him an ability to judge people. He must have accumulated a considerable reservoir of information on important personages, information on the bright as well as dark sides. According to his intimates, Kim Yong-sam knows as much about all existing personal ties as anyone else.

Therefore, anyone who recommends a wrong person on the basis of his narrow personal judgement, will end up suffering from the consequence. Of course, the president-election won't make an immediate reaction, but he will only keep it in his mind. His power of retaining his memories of what happened on these occasions is said outstanding.

In this regard some people might question the quality of the president-elect. But since he became the boss of a political party in 1970 in his forties, he has never, not even once, relinquished his leadership position. This may serve to a certain extent as a basis for proving his ability to judge people. If he had often misjudged or misused people, he would never have risen to his present status as president-elect.

Fair Listener

932C0084B Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 11 Feb 93 p 3

[Article by reporter Kim Yi-taek: "How Much President-Elect Kim Listens to the Voice of People Out of Office"]

[Text] The president-elect has been meeting with personages from all walks of life since his election. But we wonder how much he is listening to the voice of "people out of office"?

If his meeting with three elder statesmen including So Yong-hun, former president of the Korean Broadcasting

Corporation, and another meeting with Rev. In Myong-chin (Catholic) and others are regarded as contacts with "personages out of office" in a broad sense of the words, he has listened to the opinions of personages out of office on four to five occasions, formal and informal, thus far.

As far as formal meetings are concerned, he has met personages out of office only on two occasions—he invited nine prominent figures out of office, including Rev. Pak Hyong-ku and Attorney Hong Song-u to the 63 Building for a meeting on 9 January, and then met with former company President So and Rev. In at his headquarters on the same day. On the other hand, it has been conformed that he has had informal meetings with personages out of office on two or three occasions, including the meeting with the former leaders in the days of the National Movement Headquarters in 1987 at a restaurant in downtown Seoul last weekend.

Regarding the substance of the conversations, the personages out of office who met with the president-elect reportedly said that he mainly listened to their opinions rather than making any specific promises, quoting him as saying, "I want you to help me so I my become an outstanding president." When a specific issue was breached, the president-elect is said to have been noncommittal, saying "there are various sides to it." For this reason, over the question of what policies he will peruse in the future, opinions are mixed among those who have met with him.

—During the meeting that took place on the morning of 10 February, former company President Chon and others recommended a drastic amnesty measure, specifically mentioning the names of Kim Hui-son, a person sought by the police; Yun Yong-kyu, former chairman of the National Teachers Union; Yi Mun-ok, former auditor, and others. According to DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] Spokesman Pak Hui-tae, Rev. In Pyong-chin emphasized at this meeting the need for an amnesty particularly for imprisoned workers saying, "Only when labor problems are solved is it possible to promote economic construction under a stable labor-management relationship." However, according to one of the attendants at the meeting, the president-elect drew one step backward saying: "I will try to broaden the scope of the amnesty as much as possible, but it will be impossible to give 100 percent satisfaction because there is also a voice demanding that law and order be maintained." Those present reportedly responded by asking him, "Inasmuch as it cannot be said that the laws were enforced in a fair and equitable manner in the past, isn't it better to take a grand reconciliation measure before embarking upon establishing strict law and order?" Rev. In described the atmosphere of the meeting in a favorable light. According to him, the president-elect "looked surprised when he was told that the dismissed teachers belonging to the National Teachers Union are having a hard time in eking out their daily living." "After hearing the whole story," the reverend said, "the president-elect asserted that he would do his best not to upset the expectation."

—The 9 January meeting was arranged by Pak Chong-ung, the president-elect's intimate and aide, on his instructions to arrange a meeting with personages out of office. At Pak Chong-ung's request, Rev. Pak Hyong-kyu and Kim Chong-nam, former PYONGHWA SINMUN editor in chief, contacted others to be invited to the meeting.

At this meeting also the request for broadening the scope of amnesty was made while chatting about the days when the president-elect was in the opposition camp. President-elect Kim was quoted as saying in reply, "I am considering a drastic amnesty measure."

However, one of those who were present at the meeting said, "I got the impression that the president-elect was so occupied with personnel affairs that he did not seem to know how much importance he should attach to the question of amnesty and recovery of civil rights." "I said to him," he added, "the matter should be handled meticulously even if the measure may be delayed somewhat, and it should not be left to the Ministry of Justice and the NSP."

On 29 January Rev. O Chung-il of the dissident camp met with the president-elect for about five minutes at the DLP headquarters building. Rev. O went there to appeal for "leniency" for Kim Song-man, who is serving a life sentence after being found guilty in the case of the spy ring involving Korean students in the United States. According to Rev. O, the president-elect asked him, "Please help me so I may become an outstanding president, different from all my predecessors."

Rev. In and several other dissident leaders of the days of the "Nation Movement Headquarters" have had about two occasions to meet with the president-elect, including the recent one at a restaurant in Seoul to discuss current affairs. According to the president-elect's close aide, Assemblyman Kim Tok-yong contacts those dissident figures who hesitate to see the president-elect face-to-face, and reports the results to the president-elect.

However, it has been confirmed that the president-elect leans so much toward those who called for "fielding a single presidential candidate" on the opposition ticket in favor of Kim Yong-sam during the 1987 presidential race that he has had no direct meeting with those figures who sided with Kim Tae-chung against him in that election or those dissidents who maintained an anti-Kim Yong-sam line in the 1992 presidential election.

Burma

Rangoon Denies Thai Report on Forced Labor

BK3003091193 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0630 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] THE NATION newspaper, published in Thailand, dated 27 March printed a photo of a floating corpse on page 6 and quoted Captain Htar Mla Ku from the KNU [Karen National Union], a terrorist insurgent organization, as saying it was one of the corpses of porters who were brought by the Myanmar [Burmese] Defense Services to build a road connecting Pasawng in Kayah state and Saw Hta in Karen state and who were later killed and thrown into the river. This is a false report by THE NATION.

In the aforementioned area there is no road construction and no such porters were brought and made to work by the Myanmar Defense Services. The Myanmar Defense Services have never engaged in terrorist and killing activities, as reported by the paper.

In a remote area along the Kayah state and Karen state border—far away from the military columns—where insurgents are active and taking refuge, villagers and national races are often subjected to forced conscription, collection of extortion money, and confiscation of goods and supplies by the insurgent organizations, including the KNU. There were only instances where insurgents brutally killed the villagers, using as an excuse the fact that they supported and assisted the Myanmar Defense Services.

There were similar cases in which 61 Pantawi villagers in Langkho, Shan state and 61 Shan and Lahu miners along the Maepan Creek in Mong Hsat Township, Shan state were brutally murdered by insurgents on 9 February and 20 March respectively.

It has been learned from the authorities that the report in THE NATION newspaper is false and based on incorrect information.

Bangladesh Minister, Than Shwe Discuss Refugees

BK2703104093 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 20 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] Yangon [Rangoon], Mar. 19—The visiting Minister of Communications and special envoy Mr. Oli Ahmed, was received this morning by General Than Shwe, chairman of SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] and Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] at the Dragon House, reports BSS [Bangladesh News Agency].

The Minister conveyed the greetings and good wishes of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, the Government and the people of Bangladesh to the Prime Minister, the government and the people of Myanmar.

The Minister reiterated the abiding desire of Bangladesh to maintain and strengthen the existing cordial and friendly relations with Myanmar and to resolve all outstanding issues as in the past through dialogue and understanding.

General Than Shwe reciprocated the sentiment of Bangladesh Minister and conveyed his greetings and good wishes to Begum Zia and to the Government and the people of Bangladesh.

The visiting Minister expressed satisfaction at the process of repatriation of Myanmar refugees from Bangladesh under the April 28, 1992 Joint Statement and hoped that necessary steps would be taken to expedite the process. He proposed that U.N. Under Secretary General Jan Eliasson or his representatives be allowed to make a follow-up visit for the purpose. General Than Shwe said that there was an "open invitation" for Mr. Eliasson or his representatives to visit Myanmar any time.

The Minister also proposed that to help co-ordinate the process of repatriation in both sides of border and to meet the demand of international community Myanmar government agree to the stationing of a small contingent of UNHCR personnel on their side of the border.

The Minister also mentioned of the proposal of joint venture in pulp and clinker industries between the two countries and handed over a letter in this connection to Myanmar Foreign Minister who was present at the meeting. He also offered seats for Myanmar students in the medical and pharmaceutical faculties in the UTC, the private sector University of Technology of Chittagong. The Prime Minister appreciated the gesture and promised to give his government's response soon. General Than Shwe was assisted by Maj. Gen. Tin Oo, Secretary of SLORC and Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw.

Later, Oli Ahmed had a meeting with the Minister of National Planning and Economic Development of Myanmar, Brig. Gen. D.O. Abel at the Ministry of Planning. He also reiterated the proposal of the joint venture. Brig. Gen. Abel welcomed the proposal and said that he would soon invite a team from Bangladesh for a feasibility study.

The visiting Minister later called on Maj. Gen. Myo Thin, Minister of Home Affairs of Myanmar at his office. He expressed happiness at the on-going repatriation process and stressed the need for further expediting the process. He explained the danger of prolonged stay of the refugees in camps in Bangladesh. He renewed the invitation to the Home Minister to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient date.

Commanders Attend Armed Forces Day Parade

BK2903125193 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 27 Mar 93

[All ranks as heard]

[Excerpt] The 48th Armed Forces Day, Resistance Day, military parade was held this morning at 0700 [0030 GMT] at the Resistance Park on U Wizaya Road in Yangon [Rangoon]. General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and commander-in-chief of the Defense Services, attended and delivered an address.

The observance ceremony was attended by deputy prime ministers Vice Admiral Maung Maung Khin and Lieutenant General Tin Tun, Lt. Gen. Phone Myint, Lt. Gen. Aung Ye Kyaw, Lt. Gen. Sein Aung, Lt. Gen. Chit Swe, Adjutant General Lt. Gen. Myint Aung—all SLORC members. The ceremony was also attended by Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of SLORC; Lt. Gen. Tin U, secretary-2 of SLORC and chairman of the 48th Armed Forces Day Celebrating Staff Committee; Vice Admiral Than Nyunt, Navy commander-in-chief; Lt. Gen. Thein Win, Air Force commander-in-chief; Lt. Gen. Myo Nyunt, chairman of the Armed Forces Day Celebrating Management Committee and commander of the Yangon Military Command; and Quartermaster General Major General Min Thein.

The ceremony was also attended by Cabinet ministers, deputy ministers, the chief justice and Supreme Court justices; the attorney general and deputy attorney general; the deputy auditor general; the mayor of Yangon and chairman of the Yangon City Development Committee; senior military officers; responsible personnel from the office of the SLORC and the government; the chairman and members of the Multiparty Democratic General Elections Commission; members of the Panel of chairmen of the National Convention; members of the SLORC Information Committee; military attaches from the diplomatic missions; Central Executive Committee members of the War Veterans Organization; chairmen of district and township law and order restoration councils in Yangon Division; Army, Navy, and Air Force military officers of regiments and battalions under the Yangon military command and the Yangon cantonment area; officials of the news and periodicals department of the Information Ministry; local and foreign journalists; invited Mawgun award [Resistance Movement] winners; invited hill tribe members from the Pegu Yoma; excursion students from the Kabaw region; winners of the Armed Forces Day commemorative literary and arts exhibition and contest; military officers working in the ministries, departments, and organizations; and personnel from the 48th Armed Forces Day celebrating staff committee, management committee, and work groups. [passage omitted]

Annual Battle Report Continued

BK2703125393 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] The Army, together with the Air Force, are eradicating and attacking insurgents with the cooperation of the people. Thurein Tun and Min Thiha Operations in the Northern Military Command, Aung Hein Moe Operation in the Northeast Military Command, Kyaw Naing See and Pyi Yan Aye Operations in the Eastern Military Command, Thanhlyet Operation in the Southeast Military Command, and Yanmyo Aung and Aung Thiha Operations in the Southern Military Command have been launched against the insurgents.

A total of 2325 battles, including 298 major battles, were fought during the period from 21 March 1992 to 20 March 1993. During the battles, 514 soldiers from the Defense Services laid down their lives for the country and 998 soldiers were wounded.

Due to the active cooperation of the people and the members of the Defense Services valiantly engaging in battle, a total of 1,292 insurgents were killed, 231 were captured alive, and 905 assorted heavy and light weapons were seized in the major and minor battles. During that period, 615 insurgents surrendered and were returned to the legal fold.

During the action, 686 rounds of assorted heavy weapon ammunition, 78,879 rounds of assorted light weapon ammunition, 799 assorted magazines, 2,001 assorted mines, 152 assorted hand grenades, 39 walkie-talkies, 15 assorted transmitters, 2,961 sticks of explosives, 58 kg of gunpowder, 7,825 feet of explosive cable, 6,606 detonators, 1,981 fuses, 31.4533 kg of heroin, 932.3285 kg of raw opium, 14 viss [1 viss=1.6 kg] of marijuana, 1,802.95 viss of jade, 17 pieces of polished jade, one wood-cutting machine, 6,861 teak logs, 20.11 tons of teak wood, 4,063 hard wood logs, 140 tons of wooden planks, 676 heads of cattle, nine mules, 23 elephants, two television sets, two video players, three typewriters, one duplicating machine, two cars, one bulldozer, two motorcycles, two round-shaped saws, five engines, one generator, Kyat 214,109 in cash 72,730 baht in Thai currency, 839 old silver coins, 407 baskets of rice, 1,970 baskets of paddy, 385 viss of salt, and a field hospital were seized from the insurgents.

The Army and the Navy are also cooperating in the security of Myanmar [Burmese] waters and constantly patrolling. Between 21 March 1992 and 20 March 1993, a total of 220 illegal fishing trawlers and smuggling vessels were seized and 1,844 people were arrested. Fourteen assorted light weapons and 601 assorted light weapons ammunition were also seized during this period. It is estimated that the value of the confiscated vessels amounts to Kyat 362.98 million.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Minister Urges Clinton Understanding on Trade

OW3003114493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1055 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Singapore, March 30 KYODO—Malaysia Trade Minister Rafidah Aziz on Tuesday repeated her call for an East Asian economic forum, saying it will give the region a bigger voice in the global economic arena dominated by the United States and Europe.

"East Asia will continue to grow and in this respect can be a very important force to reckon with," Rafidah Aziz, minister for international trade and industry said in a speech to the Foreign Correspondents Association in Singapore.

"With its growing stature it would seem a certainty that East Asia should and would have a voice in the decision-making process relating to international trade," she said.

She said the East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC) proposed by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed in 1991 will provide a channel for dialogue among East Asian countries as well as with others outside the region.

"East Asia has to present a coherent, coordinated and collective view, through consultations in the EAEC, to the U.S. and the EC (European Community), and others, on how the world trading system can function."

Despite great interest in the concept among Japanese business circles, Japan has remained cool toward the EAEC mainly because of objections from the U.S., which is excluded from the plan.

Rafidah said that internally most countries in East Asia, including Japan, like the idea of an EAEC even though they may not support it outwardly.

She said she was still waiting to hear the opinion of the new U.S. administration on the EAEC.

She urged President Bill Clinton not "to oppose something that either you don't know about or something that should not be opposed."

Bilateral Payment Agreement Signed With Vietnam

BK2903142893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0931 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 29 (AFP)—Malaysia and Vietnam signed Monday a bilateral payment agreement to improve trade between the two countries, the central bank here said.

Bank Negara Malaysia said it hoped the deal it concluded with the State Bank of Hanoi will boost bilateral trade currently estimated at 500 million Malaysian dollars (200 million U.S.).

Under the agreement—signed by Bank Negara deputy governor Lin See Yan and his Vietnamese counterpart Le Van Chau—Malaysia will pay its exporters in local currency what Vietnam owes them and vice versa.

The two central banks will settle in U.S. dollars the net difference in the payments on a periodic basis.

Bank Negara said it had similar arrangements with 17 other central banks worldwide.

Ministry Discloses Investment Figures in Vietnam

BK3003105393 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Malaysian investment in Vietnam now stands at U.S. $67.5 million with the national petroleum corporation Petronas taking the major share. Among the many Malaysian companies actively pursuing ventures in Vietnam are the Public Bank, the Renong Group, Kinta Kilat, Sapura, and Golden Hope. These details were contained in a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

It notes that there is also an increase in people-to-people contacts between the two countries. Many Malaysians have visited Vietnam in recent years, thus increasing the potential for cooperation in tourism.

Malaysia-Vietnam relations have improved steadily, particularly over the last two years. This is clearly reflected in the exchange of high-level visits between the two countries. The highlight in the exchange of visits were the visit by Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir to Vietnam in April last year and the visit of the Vietnamese prime minister, Mr. Vo Van Kiet, in January last year.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, in his message to his counterpart Nguyen Manh Cam, in conjunction with the anniversary, hoped that the close ties of friendship and cooperation that had already been nurtured over these years will be further strengthened in the coming years in the interests of peace, stability, and prosperity in the two countries in Southeast Asia and in the world.

Singapore

Monetary Authority Eases Rules for Foreign Brokers

BK2903141193 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 28 Mar 93 p 1

[By Conrad Raj]

[Text] Singapore—In an effort to boost trading on the local bourse, the Monetary Authority of Singapore [MAS] has made it easier for foreign broking houses which are not members of the Stock Exchange of Singapore [SES] to deal in selected securities.

Non-SES member dealers can now deal directly, that is, they do not have to go through member broking firms, in all listed securities that are not denominated in Singapore dollars.

And to stimulate further interest in Clob, the over-the-counter market, they will also be allowed to deal on all new Clob stocks listed from next month, even if they are de-nominated in Singapore dollars. That means that dealings in the present list of Clob stocks, which are largely Malaysian, will still have to be done through member firms.

There are about 40 foreign houses which are not members of the SES but they are licensed to deal in securities. Among them are such international giants like Merrill Lynch, Lehman Brothers, Prudential-Bache and Salomon Brothers.

Until the current amendments, these firms were only permitted to deal in securities not quoted on the SES. For those quoted on the stock exchange, they had to deal through the 26 member firms and the seven international members .

A recent MAS circular to all non-SES member dealers said they can now deal in:

—Securities listed or quoted on the SES and which are denominated in a currency other than the Singapore dollar:

—Securities denominated in any currency, including the Singapore dollar, issued by non-Singapore incorporated companies and which are quoted (other than those already listed) for the first time on the SES after March 31; and

—Derivative products such as covered warrants and options, in respect of debentures, stocks and shares which are not issued by Singapore-incorporated companies listed on the SES.

Market observers say that while the above amendments are not expected to have an immediate impact on the market, they believe that in the long run, the changes can only be good for trading.

"Currently, there is little trading here in foreign currency denominated stocks, but since the amendments will do away with brokerage sharing, there should be greater interest in the months ahead," a foreign broker said.

A local broker agreed, adding that the changes would not mean any real loss of business for the local broking community as there was little at present to begin with. "It can only mean a more lively stock market," he said.

PRC Bank Applies for License; Counterparts Expand

BK2703160293 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 27 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] SINGAPORE—Chinese state-owned banks are fast expanding into major financial centres to raise money for their country's rapid economic development. Singapore, with its well-capitalised and managed banks, is attracting a good share of the Chinese loan business, and the number of Chinese banks may double from three to six in the near future.

Agricultural Bank of China, the second largest bank on the mainland, has applied to open a representative office here, while two other major Chinese banks, People's Construction Bank of China and Shanghai-based Bank of Communications, are also keen to establish a presence.

China's largest bank the Industrial & Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), will soon upgrade its representative office into a branch, joining Bank of China (BoC) and its subsidiary Kwungtung Provincial Bank as the only Chinese banks to have branches here.

ICBC says the Singapore authorities have said it can set up stockbroking operations if it wants. And the Bank of China—one of Singapore's oldest full-licence foreign banks—is looking into the possibility of setting up a merchant bank and establishing stockbroking operations here.

Chinese bankers say that with offshore loans becoming an important source of funding for projects in China, they have to set up directly in centres such as Singapore where they have access to scarce funds at cheaper rates.

Chinese banks generally enjoy good credit ratings, and recent Chinese loans here have been pegged at rates lower than those offered to Indonesian borrowers.

In the past two years, three Chinese banks raised a total of US$230 million (S$378 million) in Singapore.

Apart from seeking representative status in Singapore Agricultural Bank of China (ABC) also hopes to have a presence in New York, London, Hongkong, and Tokyo.

Duan Xiao Xing, ABC's vice-president, said yesterday the bank would hope to upgrade its Singapore office into an offshore branch in Singapore within a couple of years. He added that the branch would be keen on "any business the Singapore government allows it to do".

Mr Duan was here yesterday to sign an agreement with Singapore's Tat Lee Bank to raise a US$15 million loan to finance a polyester production project in Xiamen. This is the Chinese bank's first offshore loan in Singapore.

In the past two years, ABC raised a total of US$200 million from about 20 loan agreements with foreign banks. The bank is also looking into the possibility of raising money through the issuance of bonds and shares with foreign banks.

Asked if ABC was interested in teaming up with Singapore banks for joint-venture banks in China, Mr Duan said he was keen but Singapore banks, with their good knowledge of the Chinese market, preferred to go in alone.

ABC has assets totalling 860 billion renminbi and operates some 5 3,000 branches and sub-branches in China, of which 168 of them handle international business. The bank has total deposits of 331.9 billion renminbi and a capital base totalling 32.3 billion renminbi.

Cambodia

Official: Grenade Explosions in Capital Injure 14

BK3003032893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0257 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 30 (AFP)—Grenades exploded in several Vietnamese-run brothels and resturants in the Cambodian capital overnight, the first steps in a "terrorism campaign" aimed at destabilizing Cambodia ahead of elections, the Phnom Penh government claimed Tuesday.

The explosions injured 14 people, three of them seriously, said government senior advisor and Deputy Minister Khieu Kanharith.

Khieu Kanharith said the attacks were carried out by unidentified men on motorcycles representing political parties who want to destabilize Cambodia ahead of elections.

"Mostly their aim is to ... justify postponement of the elections. Some factions plan to boycott the election," he said, referring to the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] faction loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

The faction leader, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, said last week that despite rumors in Phnom Penh to the contrary, FUNCINPEC had no intention of boycotting the U.N.-sponsored elections scheduled for May 23-25.

"I think their aim also is to direct (attacks) against Vietnamese restaurants or Vietnamese businesses," Khieu Kanharith said.

Hundreds, if not thousands of Vietnamese-Cambodians have begun leaving in a mass exodus to Vietnam following a series of massacres of ethnic Vietnamese settlers by the Khmer Rouge.

NADK Rejects Accusation on UN Soldier's Death

BK3003054593 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Statement by the spokesman of National Army of Democratic Kampuchea; dated 29 March—read by announcer]

[Text] I. There have been reports saying that a Bangladeshi UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] staff member died in fighting in Siem Reap, and that accusation was leveled at the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK]. This is the umpteenth accusation. Every time there is an incident, Democratic Kampuchea [DK] is accused.

II. The NADK spokesman fully and categorically rejects this ill- intentioned accusation.

III. The NADK spokesman would like to clarify this issue as follows:

1. The Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] has clearly established that within UNTAC there are good and bad elements. The bad ones comprise a fair number of UNTAC leaders who have implemented a strategy in conjunction with Vietnam to destroy the Paris agreement, destroy DK, and maintain the Vietnamese aggressors and Vietnam's puppet regime in Cambodia before, during, and after the elections, and through this, drag others into submission into the regime which belongs to Vietnam and its puppets.

The majority of UNTAC staff, particularly from Third World countries, are the proper ones who want the Paris agreement correctly implemented and want Cambodia to have peace and independence and the Cambodian people to exercise their right to self-determination without foreign aggression.

This is the strategic and basic policy of Third World countries in general because these countries are small and poor and are usually victims of big countries; they are constantly in fear and concerned about big countries' threats.

2. UNTAC staff from Third World countries in particular, such as Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Pakistan, are respected and loved by DK who has maintained good communications with them right from the beginning. DK has thus no reason to do anything to affect these people.

3. The Cambodian nation and people are well aware of the situation in Cambodia. UNTAC too is aware of the situation, and so are the Supreme National Council [SNC] and the world—that is old Vietnamese aggressors still remain and new Vietnamese aggressors, in the form of persons in their millions, have flowed into Cambodia. Vietnam's puppets too are still with the Vietnamese and run everything in Cambodia. UNTAC leaders have colluded with the Vietnamese aggressors to enable Vietnam and its puppets to constantly commit aggression against and occupy Cambodia.

The Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets have carried out activities against the resistance forces almost everywhere, particularly in order to seize territory and people's villages from DK's liberated zones. The Vietnamese and puppets did this in the 14th and the 15th dry season despite the fact that the Paris agreement is already in existence and has been so for 16 to 17 months. Tanks, multiple rocket launchers, heavy artillery pieces, and all sorts of infantry troops have been used to destroy people's villages, houses, property, cattle, and poultry.

This is the constant root cause of the current war which is raging in Cambodia.

IV. To solve all problems in Cambodia, UNTAC leaders and allies in and outside UNTAC, who have been destroying the Paris agreement, should clearly consider the causes of the deterioration of the situation in Cambodia. As Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], said in his 13 and 14 December 1991 statements, those who cause the situation in Cambodia to deteriorate and are responsible for it are the Vietnamese aggressors, their puppets, and UNTAC leaders.

Clear consideration should be given to and a correct solution provided in accordance with the cause. In other words, the Paris agreement should be genuinely, correctly, and comprehensively implemented including:

a. The verification that all sorts of Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia;

b. A role for the SNC as the legitimate and the sole source of power in Cambodia;

c. Cooperation between UNTAC and the SNC to control the five ministries. [Dated] 29 March

[Signed] NADK Spokesman

Japanese Peacekeepers' Preparatory Team Arrives

OW3003102493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1001 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 30 KYODO—A team paving the way for Japan's second contingent of peacekeepers arrived in Cambodia on Tuesday as part of Tokyo's contribution to U.N. efforts to rehabilitate the war-torn country.

The 56 members in the advance team of Ground Self-Defense Force engineering troops left Chitose Airport in Japan's northernmost prefecture of Hokkaido on Monday [29 March] and reached Phnom Penh via Bangkok.

The 600-member second peacekeeper contingent will replace an equivalent number of military engineers who have been engaged in road and bridge repairing for the past six months.

The remaining troops in the second batch are set to leave Japan in early April for a six-month stint as blue berets.

Japan sent its first U.N. peacekeeping troops to Cambodia last September after bitter debate over whether such action violated the war-renouncing constitution.

Japan's postwar, U.S.-initiated pacifist Constitution bans the use of force in resolving international disputes.

Tokyo decided last Friday to send 50 military personnel to Mozambique around late May to help with transportation operations for the 7,500-member U.N. peacekeeping mission there.

The decision followed a government fact-finding mission to Mozambique which reported that all key conditions for Japan's participation in U.N. peacekeeping efforts were met.

These include a cease-fire and assurances that Japanese personnel will not be drawn into military combat.

UN Spokesman: Number of Fleeing Vietnamese Grows

BK3003104093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0935 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 30 (AFP)—The number of ethnic Vietnamese fleeing the Khmer Rouge's ethnic cleansing campaign in Cambodia is growing, with the United Nations indicating Tuesday that some 7,000 people were heading to Vietnam.

They began leaving in droves by boat and by land last week following a series of massacres by the Khmer Rouge aimed at purging Cambodia of Vietnamese settlers.

Independent estimates put the figure of Vietnamese in Cambodia at between 200,000 and 500,000, but the Khmer Rouge claim there are two million and no one knows the true figure.

U.N. spokesman Eric Berman said nearly 100 Vietnamese fishing boats crossed into Vietnam over the weekend down the Tonle Bassac River.

Most were third generation Cambodians and had come from the floating village near Siem Reap where 33 ethnic Vietnamese were massacred on March 10.

Phnom Penh government police said an additional 15 boats had crossed at that point plus another five at the Mekong River crosssing point, for a total of 120 boats.

With each boat carrying seven to 12 people, the figure means that between 840 and 1,440 people have crossed into Vietnam already.

Another 480 boats were just north of Phnom Penh and heading for the border, Berman said.

The 480 boats would carry an additional 3,300 to 5,800 people, according to the calculations.

"We know that some Vietnamese have gone by road; not all of them are on the river," Berman said.

Cambodia has no strict immigration control along the Vietnamese border, so the number of people leaving by land would be impossible to measure.

A number of Vietnamese in Phnom Penh interviewed over the weekend said they planned to leave by road within a few days, and a series of grenade explosions targetting Vietnamese brothels and restaurants Monday night sparked more to join the exodus.

"I am going back to Vietnam right now," said Cou Vieng, 45, whose hands and leg were slightly injured in one of the explosions.

"I was planning to go yesterday, but I did not expect such a thing would happen," he said. "I cannot stay in such a dangerous place like this."

Phnom Penh Government Spokesman and Deputy Minister Khieu Kanharith said the exodus was creating a serious shortage of skilled laborers and halting construction in the capital.

"This can affect our economy. Many of them (who are leaving) are skilled workers," he said. "Construction is slowing down."

The exodus is an ironic shift from the migrations of just a decade ago, as these Vietnamese boatpeople of 1993 seek refuge in Vietnam rather than away from it.

Targetted for their race alone, nearly 90 Vietnamese-Cambodians have been reported killed in six massacres by the Khmer Rouge since the U.N. peacekeeping operation came to Cambodia.

Since the United Nations began identifying Vietnamese who served in Vietnam's occupying army as "foreign forces," the intensity and frequency of the attacks have mounted.

Their method of flight is a cluster of sampan-shaped wooden boats with shelters of thatch and bamboo to keep out the sun. Floating platforms house the occasional machine shop or sewing room, their fronts necklaced with rotting old bicycle tires that act as bumpers.

The boats, tied together in groups for protection and conservation of engine fuel, carry seven to 10 people plus several babies each and the few belongings of a Vietnamese fishing family.

Phnom Penh Police Kill UN Peacekeeper

BK3003031693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0303 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 30 (AFP)—The Phnom Penh government said Tuesday it shot and killed a U.N. peacekeeper after he sped past a police checkpoint set up after a series of grenade blasts in the city.

The man, believed to be a Bangladeshi civilian working in the movement control section of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), was driving with a companion who was also injured when police opened fire on the car, government senior advisor and Deputy Minister Khieu Kanharith said.

He said the car was closely following another car which fired out the window near the police checkpoint and sped away.

When police returned fire, they hit the car driven by the UNTAC man, killing the passenger and injuring the driver, Khieu Kanharith said.

The policeman who fired at the car has been detained and an investigation will determine whether he rightfully returned fire, the government spokesman said.

Government Forces Under Attack in Three Provinces

BK3003070993 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0403 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Phnom Penh 30 Mar (SPK)—On 24 March a group of about 200 Khmer Rouge from Division 785 simultaneously attacked three communes of Kompong Leng district, Kompong Chhnang province, according to a source of the provincial military command.

The communes which came under attack were Chranok, Samraong Sen, and Da, all of them bordering on Kompong Thom province.

The attack which took place at around 1930 left two government soldiers wounded and an official of one of the three communes was taken hostage by the attackers, reported the source which added that the Khmer Rouge are now pursuing their attempt to seize the whole district.

In Kompong Thom province, on 21 March, one of the attackers was killed when his band of five to six persons attacked the position of government forces in Pralay commune, Stoung district, said a source in the Commission for Military Affairs Coordination with the United Nations. An ID card of the "FUNCINPEC" [National United Front for an Independent, Peaceful, Neutral and Cooperative Cambodia] party was found on the dead body, the same source said before adding:

In Kompong Cham, on 16 March, some 20 Khmer Rouge raided Boeng Ket commune of Stoeng Trang district. They wounded five inhabitants and took away two motorcycles and a bike and torched a house.

On 22 March, another group of Khmer Rouge from Division 785 attacked two communes of Cheung Prey district. A post of the local police was completely damaged.

Chea Sim Calls for Caution in Upcoming Elections

BK2903031693 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] On the morning of 25 March, His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee and of the State of Cambodia [SOC] National Assembly, accompanied by a number of high-ranking officials, presided over the inauguration of a new school building at (Russei commune) high school in Khsach Kandal District, Kandal Province.

Speaking to teachers, students, the clergy, and Buddhist disciples in the area attending the inauguration of the building, H.E. Chea Sim welcomed the great contribution of the local state authority, the clergy, and compatriots abroad [words indistinct] in the educational sector. H.E. Chea Sim stressed that after the 7 January 1979 liberation day, the CPP and the SOC government have restored and expanded the nation's socioeconomic sector and revived the religious sector. Efforts have also been made to assist the people to improve their living standards and to provide full rights and freedom to citizens.

H.E. Chea Sim recalled that during the nearly four years of rule under the Pol Pot regime, people's property, rights, and freedom, as well as socioeconomic structures, were suppressed and destroyed. More seriously, the Pol Pot group indiscriminately massacred over 3 million people.

Concerning the destiny of the nation, H.E. Chea Sim appealed to the teachers, clergy, and people in Khsach Kandal District to carefully think about each political party at the upcoming May consituent assembly elections to avoid the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

Hun Sen Meets, Praises Voters in Kompong Chhnang

BK2903130993 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] During a recent visit to Kompong Chhnang Province, His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen and his wife chatted with the people of the province. The get-together was held with Buddhist monks, elders, and people coming from all villages, communes, and districts of Kompong Chhnang Province. They presented a report on their daily lives, the production situation in each locality, and the state of their family-run economy.

The report described improvement in the people's living conditions in all localities where 14 years ago the villages were mere heaps of rubble and the people had nothing but their bare hands with which to rebuild their lives. The report thanked the party and state for [words indistinct].

Speaking on the occasion, H.E. Chairman Hun Sen expressed satisfaction with the efforts of the people of Kompong Chhnang Province to build their family-run economy, starting from scratch until they now have sufficient means and equipment to improve their living conditions. He went on to say that the higher standard of living of the local people has contributed greatly to social development. He also informed them of the [words indistinct] of the United Nations for Cambodia and that the State of Cambodia [SOC] has staunchly supported the implementation of the Paris peace agreement by closely cooperating with UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] in order to bring success to the search for a peaceful solution in Cambodia, which is the aspiration of all Cambodians. H.E. Hun Sen explained the warmongering ambitions of the Khmer Rouge insurgents, pointing out that not only have they refused to accept and implement the Paris agreement, but they have also worked to undermine it by continually attacking and killing Cambodians and savagely massacring ethnic Vietnamese. Moreover, they have resorted to all means to topple the SOC in an attempt to bring back the danger of genocide to the people and nation.

H.E. Chairman Hun Sen expressed confidence that, nevertheless, the Cambodian people and SOC remain resolute to fight and are fully capable of withstanding the polpotist regime of genocide, and that the implementation of the Paris agreement will continue until the end.

Regarding the legislative election to be held next May, H.E. Chairman Hun Sen urged those present at the get-together to closely choose their deputies because this will not be an ordinary election; it will be the selection of a political system and will be a matter of life or death to the voters and to the nation as a whole.

On the same occasion, the chairman donated 100,000 riel for the construction of two buildings for the Veal Sbov primary school, Veal Sbov village, Ampil Toek Commune, Kompong Tralach District, Kompong Chhnang Province.

Sihanouk Concerned Over Famine, 'Unrest'

BK2903014593 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 28 Mar 93

["Essence" of interview with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council, with BND magazine on 24 March—place not given; read by announcer]

[Text] [Correspondent] A week ago, there was a serious crisis due to the devaluation of the riel currency with people no longer wanting to hold th currency. Some days there was no rice for sale; people only have vegetbales to eat and this has made them very angry. There are reports that mass demonstrations will be staged in Phnom Penh to oppose this intolerable situation. What is your view?

[Sihanouk] It is the people who are the victims. I have been helping the Phnom Penh side a lot. UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and the Phnom Penh side are the power holders and it is they who are responsible. They should cooperate to solve this problem. It is a very difficult issue to solve because:

1. What should be done to prevent the riel's devaluation and price increases?
2. How to prevent serious inflation of the Phnom Penh budget;
3. Can anything be exported?
4. Should more taxes be levied?
5. What should countries—masters and initiators—do to assist in solving this socio-economic problem?
6. In the immediate future, how should the famine facing the people be solved?
7. Should money be borrowed from the World Bank?

[Correspondent] Are you worried about people going hungry and about voters demanding that the problem of hunger be solved and saying they want rice for their stomachs and not people's deputies?

[Sihanouk] This possibility does exist. I am worried that unrest will occur during the election campaign starting 7 April.

Khmer Rouge Urges SNC To Issue Riel Bank Notes

BK2703113993 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 26 Mar 93

["Statement of the Finance Department of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea on the puppets' riel currency killing the people and the need to issue new national bank notes for use by the people throughout the country"; dated 26 March—read by announcer]

[Text] I. The Yuon [Vietnamese] aggressors issued all kinds of riel bank notes for use in serving their war of aggression after invading Cambodia in 1979 and installing their lackeys, the Phnom Penh puppets, to power. They have used this valueless riel to plunder the Cambodian people's rice and all kinds of crops for nearly the last 15 years now.

The present situation is that the people, traders, civil servants, soldiers, and policemen in the puppet regime are in chaos and refuse to use riel bank notes because the puppets' riel is the currency for committing aggression and for bullying and killing the people. This currency is currently valueless. Nobody will accept it in the future.

II. Concerning this matter, the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] used to propose that the Supreme National Council [SNC] and the tripartite national resistance forces issue SNC riel bank notes or bank notes of the resistance forces according to the people's request for use in liberated zones, semi-liberated zones, and zones temporarily controlled by Yuon and their puppets. This is because the people realize that the riel bank notes of the Yuon puppets are as cheap as tissue paper. This riel currency is worthless and no-future money. Therefore, the Cambodian people want to use bank notes that belong to the SNC or Cambodian national resistance forces.

III. The proposal made repeatedly by PDK is supported by the people and some other parties. There were, however, some opinions that it is not yet time to arrange for new riel bank notes.

In such a situation, the Cambodian people inside both the liberated zones and semi-liberated zones have kept requesting the PDK to issue riel bank notes for use by the people. This is because the PDK has nearly 3,000 liberated villages and over 2,000 semi-liberated villages. Even the people in the zone temporarily controlled by Yuon aggressors and their puppets also need the SNC's riel bank notes for use nationwide. The people have kept complaining about the riel bank notes of the Yuon puppets. They said that Yuon aggressors and their puppets used valueless riel bank notes to buy people's products. But when the people went to buy things with the puppets' riel bank notes, the traders refused to accept those bank notes and instead asked for Thai baht, gold, or dollars.

Because of this, the PDK has decided to issue some riel bank notes—that is, five-, 10-, 20-, 50-, and 100-riel bank notes—for use by the people in liberated zone for the time being.

This new riel currency has been circulated in 800 villages within the liberated zone. The buying and selling are of equal value. That is, the prices of all kinds of goods, such as paddy, rice, corn, beans, vegetables, utensils, clothes, hoes, knives, axes, and so on, and the riel are of equal worth.

The exchange value of this new PDK riel currency is one riel per one baht and 25 riel per dollar.

The people joyfully accept and use this riel currency because they realize that they will gain from production, selling, and buying, thus easing the daily living of their families.

IV. On this occasion, we would like to reiterate our call for the SNC to issue riel bank notes for use by the people throughout Cambodia. But if UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] refuses to let the SNC issue a national riel currency, the Cambodian national resistance forces will jointly issue riel bank notes for use by the people. This currency will be trusted by the people and can serve as a warrant for the people both now and in the future.

As for the puppets' riel currency, in the past and particularly at present, the people, big and small traders, civil servants, soldiers, and policemen in the puppet regime have suffered and are suffering even more seriously because no one wants it. It cannot buy rice or salt. Thus, the people only wait to be starved to death in time. Their future is very dim. [Dated] 26 March

[Signed] The Finance Department of the PDK

Indonesia

Alatas Comments on UN East Timor Resolution

BK2903112593 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0945 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Jakarta, Mar 29 (ANTARA)—Foreign Minister Ali Alatas has said that a resolution on the implementation of human rights in East Timor adopted recently at a meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva was merely Portugal's political mask.

"The resolution will not be effective. And Indonesia questions what the country's aim by insisting on such an ineffective resolution was, said Ali Alatas after attending a get-together in connection with the 'Id al-Fitr [end of Ramadan] with his ministry's staff here on Monday.

He said that the resolution, which does not have a legal power [words indistinct] has been determined through a voting while Indonesia and several other countries against the resolution, is difficult to be implemented. [sentence as recieved]

"Such resolution will neither resolve any problem, nor the implementation of the human rights in East Timor. It was just a kind of Portugal's show of force," said the minister.

He said that the resolution will only make the situation before the second tripartite meeting between Indonesia, Portugal and the United Nations getting worse. [sentence as received]

Portugal always strives to show its superiority by repeatedly introducing similar resolutions at every meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

But, at last year's meeting Portugal failed to include its draft resolution proposal into the commission's agenda. Last year's meeting only produced the chairman's statement on human rights implementation in East Timor, in which its status was classified lower than a resolution. A resolution results if both sides reach an agreement.

This year Portugal has again tried to attack Indonesia with an allegation that Indonesia did not abide by the chairman's statement.

"They accused Indonesia of not implementing most of the chairman's statement. This was not true. Indonesia always abides by the chairman's statement," he said.

Such an allegation has made Portugal succeed in convincing other countries to support its draft resolution on the human rights aspect in East Timor.

Indonesia and some other countries could not accept any resolution which has higher classification than last years chairman's statement.

Comparison to Suharto Cabinet List

WA3003164293

Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English on 18 March carries a page 1 report on the composition of the cabinet announced by President Suharto on 17 March. This report has been compared with the list broadcast by Jakarta Radio in Indonesian at 1230 GMT on 17 March and published in the 18 March East Asia DAILY REPORT under the headline "Suharto Announces New Cabinet 17 Mar", pages 42-43, permitting the following corrections:

Page 43, column one, paragraph 10, make read: Minister of Finance, Drs. [Master of Arts] Mar'ie Muhammad.

Same column, paragraph 14, make read: Minister of Mining and Energy, I.B. Sujana.

Same column, paragraph 17, make read: Minister of communications, Dr. Haryanto Dhanutirto.

Same column, paragraph 19, make read: Minister of Cooperatives and the Upbringing of Small Businessmen, Drs. Subiakto Cakrawerdaya.

Same column, paragraph 22, make read: Minister of Education and Culture, Dr. Ir. Wardiman Joyonegoro.

Column two, paragraph 11, make read: Minister of State for Youth and Sports, Hayono Isman.

Laos

Foreign Minister Meets U.S. Ambassador, Others

BK2703112193 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] Somsavat Lengsavat, Lao minister of foreign affairs, received ambassadors of various countries and a representive of an international organization office in Laos, who paid him courtesy calls to congratulate him on his appointment to the new post, on the afternoon of 25 March.

The well-wishers in respective order were Nikhom Tantemsap, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Laos; Charles B. Salmon Jr., ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the United States to Laos; [name indistinct], representative of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR] Office in Laos; and U Maung Maung Lay, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to Laos.

During the meetings, the foreign diplomats and UNHCR representative seperately expressed their congratulations to Somsavat Lengsavat and wished him success in performing the noble duty. Each guest and the host exchanged views on strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields between the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the respective countries.

The Thai ambassador expressed his confidence that the relations of friendship between the two brotherly and neighboring countries, Thailand and Laos, will be further improved and expanded so that it will flourish incessantly in the immediate future and in the long run.

The U.S. envoy highly valued Lao-U.S. relations noting steps of improvement steadily have been made. Furthermore, the U.S. diplomat also confirmed to the Lao foreign minister that the United States will help promote development projects in the LPDR.

Somsavat Lengsavat and the UNHCR representative exchanged views on the cooperation between Laos and the UNHCR. The Lao foreign minister told the UN official that Laos is willing to render cooperation on this particular issue.

Thai Province Agrees on Border Cooperation

BK2803063893 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] Recently, the local-level Lao-Thai border peacekeeping cooperation committees of the Sianghon-Hongsa Special Zone and Thailand's Nan Province held their first-ever meeting at Thailand's Nan Provincial City Hall conference room.

The meeting was presided over by co-chairmen Soukan Mahalat, head of the Sianghon-Hongsa Special Zone and chairman of the Sianghon- Hongsa Special Zone's Lao-Thai border peacekeeping cooperation committee, and Sirot Kaeosuphan, governor of Nan Province and chairman of Nan Province's Thai-Lao border peacekeeping cooperation committee.

At the meeting, both sides discussed, exchanged views, and unanimously agreed to cooperate in safeguarding peace and order along the Lao-Thai border linking the Sianghon-Hongsa Special Zone with Nan Province. Also, border-crossing points were fixed and measures to protect travelers along the border were worked out.

Sianghong Hongsa and Nan were given permission from their governments to establish official border checkpoints so the border peacekeeping committees of both sides agreed to set up three temporary border-crossing points. The first border point is situated in the area linking Laos' Ban (Non Ngao), Ngeun District, and Thailand's Ban Houai Kaen, Thung Chang District. The second point is at the border of Laos' Ban Teu Song, Sianghon District, and Thailand's Ban Mai, Tambon Ta Sen, (Chiang Kiang) District. The third border point is located in the area of Thailand's Ban Houai Sadaeng, Tambon Ngok, Thung Chang District, linking Laos' Ban Pavan, Sianghon District. Both sides agreed to officially open the three temporary border-crossing points by the end of March and only the citizens of Sianghon-Hongsa and Nan will be allowed to cross at these border places.

The meeting also established border-crossing rules and regulations, measures against illegal entry, and guidelines for cooperation to crack down on elements causing disturbances along the border. The two sides also agreed to cooperate in suppressing the activities of illegal trading, luring young women into prostitution, and narcotics trafficking along the border.

To prevent any undesirable effect on the relations between Sianghon-Hongsa and Nan and, at the same time, to promote trust, both sides agreed that no army, police force, or any other armed force will be allowed to conduct military excercise near the border. In addition, the two sides agreed to set up their own sub-committees for specific purposes and to increase their cooperation in promoting activities in trade, sports, cultural, and other fields.

Philippines

Senate President on Energy Special Powers Bill

HK3003052493 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0030 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Interview with Senate President Edgardo J. Angara by Joe Taruc at the Manila Broadcasting Company studio in Manila on the "Liberty in Action" program—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Taruc] The very day President Fidel V. Ramos met the leadership of the Congress, you gave a statement supporting President Ramos' request for emergency powers.

[Angara] No. I would like to clarify this. This is not true. We agreed with the president that there is a state of crisis in energy. His request, then, was that the proposed special powers bill be acted upon by the Congress immediately. This is what we gave him a commitment on. Now, we will respond to his request immediately. We do not know what the specific powers are. There is a great difference between acting upon and approving. I can only promise that the Senate will be responsive to the executive request. I believe that the public is waiting for the Congress to act. I know that all of us suffer due to these power outages. [passage omitted]

[Taruc] Is there any chance of the special powers bill being approved?

[Angara] If it is really resolved and there is determination, I believe that this can be done. The debates will continue while it is yet unresolved. Under the law, if there is a certification of urgency from the president, the three-day rule and printing requirements are waived.

[Taruc] Some senators say that there is no way for the proposal to be approved before the Holy Week recess. Do you have plans for a special session during Holy Week?

[Angara] We have no plans yet for a special session. That is why one of the topics to be discussed in the caucus is the possibility of extending the hearing up to 6 April if needed. [passage omitted]

Power Shortages Cost Business Sector P20 Billion

HK3003045493 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 30 Mar 93 p 17

[Text] The massive brownouts have cost business and industry some P20 billion [Philippine pesos] in losses during the first quarter of 1993 and affected more than three million workers in Luzon.

This was disclosed yesterday by Raul T. Concepcion, chairman of the multi-sectoral task force on power scheduling, before the Senate committee hearing the proposal on the granting of emergency powers to President Ramos.

Concepcion said these losses were on top of the "debilitating psychological impact of brownouts on households and consumers who held back spending in anticipation of worst things to come."

As a result, he said the economy did not grow during the first three months of this year.

Concepcion said that 3.1 million workers, or more than 25 percent of the 12.3 million industrial workers covered by the Luzon power grid, suffered a loss in income during the first quarter because of the brownouts.

These wage earners are paid P130 a day on the principle of no work-no pay and the brownouts averaged 4.5 hours daily in January, 5.3 hours in February, and 5.8 hours in March, Concepcion pointed out.

Concepcion urged Congress to let President Ramos take a more direct hand in addressing the crisis by passing the special legislative measure required to solve the energy problem.

He noted that of the customers in the franchise area of the Manila Electric Co., 97.3 percent do not have generators and they employ the bulk of commercial employees.

"This is the sector that suffers the brunt of the brownouts," Concepcion said. This sector included the small- and medium-sized enterprises—sari-sari stores [convenience store], beauty parlors, auto repair shops, restaurants, exporters, and service firms.

Concepcion reported a significant drop in sales averaging 20 percent to 30 percent for small- and medium-sized firms and 30 percent for eateries.

"In many ways, the National Power Corp. [Napocor], not the blackouts, is the problem," Concepcion said. He called a for a reorganization of the Napocor to upgrade salaries of qualified technical personnel and remove the incompetent, inefficient, and corrupt officials.

"There is need to remove all Napocor's inefficient personnel and those responsible for abnormal plant breakdowns due to negligence, faulty rehabilitation and repairs, oil pilferage, losses from dollar blackmarketing, and adulteration and contamination of nine gas turbine power barges," Concepcion said.

1992 Capital Goods Imports Rise

HK3003050093 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 30 Mar 93 p 2

[Report by Meluchi A. Adriano]

[Text] Raw materials and intermediate goods continued to account for a large chunk of imports last year, even growing by 28.6% as the manufacturing sector continued to source its inputs from outside the country. Figures released by the Central Bank show that letters of credit opened last year were mostly earmarked for raw materials such as chemicals, wheat, ores, animal feed, and synthetic fibers. This category made up $5.1 billion or 45% of imports last year.

The second largest group of imports were capital goods, totalling $2.9 billion or 26% of total imports. The figure is 31% or $698 million higher than the 1991 level of $2.22 billion. This was largely due to imports of power-generating and specialized machines, which grew 54% to $1.32 billion, due to rehabilitation efforts in calamity-ravaged areas and the power shortage.

The accompanying report also noted that the increase was indicative of "the continuing growth in investments." The report attributed this interest to the lifting of the import levy during the second quarter of last year, and the strength of the peso against the U.S. dollar. It also blamed the power shortage for the manufacturing sector's slow growth last year. This sector grew 4.4%, compared to the 18.11% growth in 1991.

Meanwhile, the country chalked up $1.97 billion in imports of mineral fuels and lubricants, up 10% from the year before. Made largely of crude petroleum and petroleum products, this category's increase can be attributed to the 11% hike in volume of oil liftings to 96.82 million barrels from 86.96 million barrels in 1991.

Consumer good imports totalled $1.27 billion, or 11.29% of last year's aggregate import figure. This was shared almost equally by durables and non-durables, at 49% and 51% respectively. Durable goods imports totalled $616 million, made up mostly of passenger cars and motorized cycles for the Progressive Car/Motorcycle Manufacturing Programs. Non-durable imports totalled $653 million, made up mostly of food items.

NUC Nominates 15 Candidates for Peace Talks Panel

HK2903055093 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 28 Mar 93 p 16

[Text] The National Unification Commission [NUC] has drawn up a list of 15 nominees to the government panel that will undertake official peace talks with communist rebels. Sen. [Senator] Arturo Toleatino, a noted constitutionalist, tops the list which will be submitted to President Ramos. However, the nine-member NUC has yet to announce when it will continue the stalled exploratory talks with the National Democratic Front [NDF].

The NDF, an umbrella group of 12 Marxist organizations, has asked that new exploratory talks be held in the Netherlands and formal talks in Geneva, Switzerland.

The nominees are former Economic Planning Secretary Solita Monsod, former Sen. Rene Saguisag, Edilberto de Jesus, former Ambassador to the Vatican Howard Dee, former Presidential spokesman Adolf Azcuna, MANILA CHRONICLE editor-in-chief Amando Doronila, former Defense Secretary Rafael Ileto, Rex Robles, lawyer Artemio Panganiban, Hernando Abaya, Human Rights Commissioner Paulynn Sicam, Justice Undersecretary Teresita de Castro, University of the Philippines professor Carolina Hernandez and Delia Angara-Castillo.

Rep. [Representative] Jose Yap, who led the government panel in the exploratory talks with the NDF last September at The Hague, was not included. It was not clear how many members will compose the government panel. The President will appoint the members from the NUC nominees.

NDF vice chairman Luis Jalandoni earlier this month told Yap the NDF is ready to name the members of its own panel. He said it will be headed by a ranking NDF official, although he did not indicate if he will come from the Utrecht base or the local NDF. Peace talks with the NDF have been stalled over issues of venue and agenda.

Meanwhile, peace negotiators for the government and rightist rebels are set to meet with officials of the National Power Corp. [Napocor] to discuss the problem of corruption and inefficiency in the power firm.

UP [University of the Philippines] professor Alfredo Tadiar, who heads the government panel, said graft and corruption in government was one of the main concerns raised by the rightist rebels—the Marcos loyalists led by ex-Brig. Gen. Jose Zumel and the Rebolusyonnryong Alyansang Makabansa [Reform the Armed Forces Movement, RAM] led by ex-Col. Gregorio Honasan—for the peace talks.

Tadiar, Zumel and their members will meet with top Napocor officials in an effort to learn first-hand about the causes of the power crisis and determine solutions.

Negros Leftists Submit Amnesty Counterproposal

HK2903150693 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Communist rebels in Negros have responded to the government's amnesty offer and its call for their surrender through a counterproposal granting unconditional amnesty for what they term 'public enemies' who will voluntarily surrender to them. The offer was stated in separate but almost identical statements by the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] and the New People's Army [NPA] in Northern Negros in conjunction with the NPA's 24th founding anniversary today. Primo Labayo, alias Boy Gat, signed for the CPP, while on the NPA side, political officer Comrade Garapali Luwalhati and NPA commander Comrade Rico Obrero signed.

The statements mentioned that all members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police, the Citizen's Armed Forces Geographical Unit, civilian volunteers organizations, fascist fanatics, land owners, and government officials, as well as civilians who were found guilty of committing crimes against the people, will be given a chance to live peacefully after they surrender to any NPA unit. The rebel statement also said the amnesty offer is part of the completion of their important commitment towards attaining full democracy, peace, and justice for all.

ARMM Candidate Wants Count Postponed

HK3003054093 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 29 Mar 93

[From the "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] The lawyer of gubernatorial candidate Zacaria Candao of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao [ARMM] today filed for postponement of the tabulation of certificates of canvass.

The regional board of canvassers was scheduled to hold the tabulation this afternoon. Candao's lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, said they were not given notice about the tabulation.

He also noted the sudden change in the membership of the regional board of canvassers.

Meanwhile, the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] said that while it believes the election in Muslim Mindanao was peaceful, it was not clean or fair.

ABC 5 reporter Arlene de la Cruz had the chance to interview the MNLF chief of staff, who gave his assessment of the just-concluded election. Here is her report:

[Begin recording] [De la Cruz] Lutong Macao [cooked in Macao, a Filipino figure of speech for rigged] is how the MNLF describes the ARMM election. In the province of Sulu, General Yusuf Bikiri of the General Command of the Bangsa Moro Armed Forces said, in his first meeting with the media, that only in Jolo was there a true election within Sulu. The election in Sulu and other parts of the ARMM was controlled by politicians.

[Bikiri] For example, if you are the mayor, then you will win, because that is the usual practice.

[De la Cruz] The MNLF said the fielding of many battalions of soldiers was only for show and intended to hide the politicans' control over the results of the election.

[Bikiri] Their sending of the military here is only a matter of justification in order to show that the government has control over the situation.

[De la Cruz] For the MNLF, autonomy or the ARMM is continued violation of the Tripoli agreement. In election hot spots in Sulu that were visited by ABC 5, the military was there but politicians' men could carry firearms freely. In Talipao, Sulu, for example, the armed men of Mayor Ben Tulawi were more numerous than the Marines assigned to the area to oversee the elections. [end recording]

Commission Postpones Election Count

HK3003052693 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] The Commission on Elections [Comelec] has postponed the canvassing of votes for the gubernatorial and vice gubernatorial slots of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao [ARMM] election. The directive was issued by the commission following a petition filed by the Struggle of Filipino Democrats [LDP], which accused the commission of failing to inform the party of the actual date for canvassing to be held in Intramuros, Manila.

Partial unofficial election returns show that Luningding Pangandaman and Nabil Tan, Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats' [NUCD] gubernatorial and vice gubernatorial candidates respectively, are ahead of their LDP competitors, incumbent Governor (Zacharias) Canadao and his running-mate, Benjamin (Luong).

Comelec Chairman Christian Monsod also said the commission has no intention of rushing the proclamation of election winners just to meet the expiration of the incumbent ARMM officials' terms on 31 March.

The Comelec has already proclaimed the 21 winning assemblymen. An estimated 81 percent of total registered voters voted during the poll.

Meanwhile, President Ramos said Strength-NUCD is the victim of the recent spate of ARMM election violence. The president made this clarification following accusations that Malacanang was involved in election fraud. Ramos pointed out that the most violent incident to occur during the campaign period occurred during the Strength-NUCD's general meeting in Sultan Kudarat, where three people were killed. He said this may be compared to the last May 1992 elections, where most of the election casualties were members of his political party. He said it is up to the Comelec to act on these reported election frauds.

Thailand

Companies Reported Linked With Libyan Chemical Plant

BK2903133993 Bangkok SIAM POST in Thai 29 Mar 93 pp 1, 2

[Text] According to additional information provided for SIAM POST by a high-level source in the Prime Minister's Office about heavy pressure levied on Thailand by the United States in response to the participation of Thai workers in the Libyan chemical weapons project, at least three Thai private companies were involved in sending Thai workers to Libya for the project. Two of them have their head offices in Bangkok and the other in Chiang Mai Province. All three companies are owned by Thai nationals who formerly worked in Libya.

The companies disguised their businesses as worker-exporting establishments and operated without permits from the Labor Department. The owner of one of the three companies was once arrested on a charge of illegal possession of firearm ammunition and explosives. The evidence gathered by authorities also indicates that he was involved in producing large quantities of explosives to ship to Libya.

In addition to their worker-exporting business, the three companies were reportedly supplying materials, equipment, and tools to Libya because the latter is unable to maintain direct contact with foreign producers following the imposition of UN sanctions.

Acting as procurers for Libya, the three companies make a large profit and commission from the goods they send to libya. Libya is forced to pay as high as 500 percent over normal prices for the goods. Through very subtle methods, the companies send the goods to Libya with workers if they are not too big to carry. If the goods are too big, they will be taken apart and reassembled in Libya. They have earned hundreds of millions of baht from doing business there. The owner of the company whose head office is in Chiang Mai has not less than one billion baht in savings with the Arab Bank Corporation in Singapore in the form of LC accounts.

The Thai Government, in particular the National Security Council and Foreign Ministry, is reportedly well aware of the problem and knows that such business can adversely affect Thailand's image in the world community. Hence, the Foreign Ministry summoned the owners of the three companies for questioning and asked them to stop meddling with the chemical weapons project; but they refused to comply with the request. One of the companies claimed that Thai workers were working in a tap water production plant and a military medical supply factory.

A source in the National Security Council revealed that the tap water plant is a part of the project because clean water is needed for production of chemical weapons. The construction of the plant has been completed. The plant is now producing clean water for the production of chemical weapons and is closely controlled by Thai engineers and a number of Libyan workers. The chemical weapons project, under the supervision of the Libyan Technology Institute, is scheduled to be completed in 1994.

After completion of the project, Libya will use its chemical weapons as tools for political bargaining which is against the convention which banned the use of chemcial weapons—also signed by Thailand. Libya refused to sign the convention. Since Thailand is a signatory of that convention, involvement in the project by three private Thai companies lead Thailand to have problems with the world community and the major powers.

A source from the Labor Skill Development Department told SIAM POST that there is a large number of Thai workers in Libya, but less than one percent are involved in the project. One of the three companies disclosed that these workers replaced German and Japanese laborers who withdrew from the project in 1986. There are 900 workers who have replaced the Japanese and German workers in 73 positions.

A number of Thai workers filed complaints with the department that they have not received pay for their service in Libya. After inquiries, the companies said Libya had not transferred the money to them. Some workers complained that the companies have embezzled their money.

A Thai worker who used to work for the project disclosed that the plant's safety system was very poor. Thai workers were at a high risk of exposure to chemicals. Only one gas mask was issued to each worker. At least two Thai workers had to be hospitalized for exposure to chemicals and their fates are still unknown.

The same worker confirmed that the report on Thais working in the chemcial weapons plant in Libya is true. But the majority are not directly involved in weapons production and only a few are aware of the facts. Workers were told that they were constructing a tunnel system to fetch water to new communities in Libya.

Besides the three companies, professors from the faculty of engineering of a renowned educational institute in a province are involved in the construction of the tunnel known as Project 300. The tunnel is, in fact, an underground chemical weapons plant that cannot be detected by satellite or attacked by air.

Further on Reported Libyan Links

BK3003045593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] Labour attaches in Egypt will investigate a report that Thais are working at a suspected chemical weapons plant in Rabta, Libya Deputy Interior Minister Suthat Ngoenmuen said yesterday.

A press report has said that three Thai job placement firms have sent Thai, workers to the Rabta plant, which the United States previously threatened to bomb.

He said there are about 25,000 Thai workers in Libya, but only 12,000 were sent by the Skilled Labour Development Department.

The rest went there by way of Egypt.

None of the workers sent by the department are at Rabta, he said. Most Thai workers in Libya are laying pipelines and building tunnels. Others are carpenters, masons, equipment operators and cooks, he added.

Thailand has no embassy in Libya, he said, so the Interior Ministry has instructed Thai labour attaches in Cairo to investigate the reports about Rabta which is believed to be the site of a chemical weapons factory.

Mr Suthas said seven job placement companies supply workers to Libya, of which three reportedly sent Thai workers to Rabta during 1989-1990.

They were warned by the Foreign and Interior ministries to stop doing this, he added.

Two of the three companies are W & M and S.P.C. Supachoke.

Thailand is obliged to oppose chemical weapons, he said, and the Foreign and Interior ministries had informed the United States that no Thai workers would be sent to Rabta, which is about 90 kilometres south of the Libyan capital Tripoli.

In January 1989 the United States threatened to launch an air strike against the suspected chemical weapons plant, where about 700 Thais were reported to be working.

More on Libyan Chemical Weapons Projects

BK3003104193 Bangkok SIAM POST in Thai 30 Mar 93 p 3

[Article: "Thai Companies Join the Production of Deadly Weapons For Libya"]

[Text] Russian politics has become the talk of the town in comparison with the latest world developments reported by renowned foreign news agencies including CNN, VISNEWS, and Reuter. However, people are now beginning to turn their attention to Libya's chemical weapons projects again. This issue lost its publicity during the Gulf war.

Libya has been labelled by the West, in particular the United States, as "the culprit" responsible for the operation of various terrorist movements. Despite several measures designed to put pressure on Libya, nobody seems to be able to put an end to the absurdity of the Libyan leader.

The first attempt of Libya to produce chemical weapons to threaten the world community was in 1984. The Libyan Government set aside a huge amount of money to hire private companies with the required technical skills and purchased materials and equipment from Germany, Italy, Switzerland and other Asian countries including Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, and even Thailand.

The project advanced rapidly because production of chemical weapons is uncomplicated and requires the same technology used for production of powerful explosives. Chemical experts confirm that any country with medium-sized petrochemical industries, especially OPEC members, is capable of producing chemical weapons.

Moreover, the chemicals used for production of the weapons can be destroyed within a few hours without leaving any traces for later detection.

For these reasons, ill-intentioned countries wish to have their own chemical weapons plants so that they can use the lethal ordnance, as good as nuclear weapons but cheaper, to increase their bargaining power. Libya apparently has no respect for the convention which bans chemical weapons use.

The chemical weapons project is under the supervision of the Technology Center Libya [name published in English], which incorporates a chemical research center, known as Pharma 150 [name published in English], mainly relying on supplies of chemicals and equipment from private companies in Japan and Germany. After the withdrawal of the Japanese and German companies from the project due to U.S. pressure in 1985, private Thai companies were given the opportunity to take over the tasks of the Japanese and German firms.

Three former Thai workers in Libya formed three companies to do profitable business there. The three companies are Company S., owned by A. Th.; Company W., owned by Mr. Ch. in Chiang Mai Province; and Comany H., owned by Mr. A.N. [names of companies and owners as published].

In particular, the company owned by Mr. A. Th. was responsible for sending 900 Thai nationals to replace the German and Japanese workers while taking over the procurement of supplies and construction work from the German and Japanese firms. Company W. is hired as a subcontractor responsible for operating public facilities and construction work under the project. Company H. supplies chemists and researchers for Plant Pharma 150. Since the head office of Company H. is situated in Chiang Mai Province, professors and engineers from the local renowned institute of higher education have been recruited to serve as advisors for the project.

In 1989 the United States exposed Libya's chemical weapons project based on photos taken by its spy satellites and applied measures to put pressure on Libya. The plant was closed temporarily. Libya falsely announced that the plant was destroyed by a fire.

Following a short period of inactivity, Libya revived the project with the participation of the three Thai companies.

New equipment and tools were clandestinely brought to Libya with Thai workers. Some were taken apart and reassembled after their arrival in Libya. Libya is unable to purchase the equipment and tools directly from European countries due to the UN air embargo. Although the prices are as much as 500 percent higher, Libya is willing to pay for them.

With full supplies and equipment, the project was revived. However, the plant was moved to a new site in Tarhunan township, 65 km from Tripoli. The new plant, renamed Project 300, referred to among the Thai workers as Site 3, was built exactly the same as Plant Pharma 150.

The new plant is situated in two connected giant underground tunnels constructed in the desert by Company W. and scheduled to be completed in 1995. According to U.S. intelligence, the plant will concentrate on producing nerve gas.

With its bitter Plant Pharma 150 experiences, Libya decided to build the new plant underground to prevent satellite detection and air attacks.

Thai workers not involved in the project were told that the two giant tunnels are used to fetch water from the huge underground water source in the Sahara Desert to communities along the coast.

In any event, the tap water plant allegedly built by the Thai companies does provide clean water for the chemical weapons plant because clean water is one of the major parts of producing the deadly arms.

The revival of the Libyan chemical weapons project has been closely watched by the United States. The participation of the Thai private companies in Libyan lethal weapons projects is a breach of the convention on banning chemical weapons as Thailand is also a signatory to the agreement. More importantly, Thailand is acting blatantly against the resolution of the world community. If the government allows the interests of a few people to impair the country's image and prestige, Thailand will be viewed as notoriously as Libya.

Security Chief, Minister View Situation

BK3003115193 Bangkok SIAM POST in Thai 30 Mar 93 pp 1,2

[Text] General Charan Kunlawanit, secretary general of the National Security Council, said during an interview on 29 March that Thailand had already explained to the United States about Thai private companies supplying workers for chemical weapons projects in Libya. He said he went to the United States in February to give an explanation to the U.S. State Department in Washington D.C. on this matter. The United States understands that, as a democratic country, Thailand cannot impose a restriction on its people.

Gen. Charan said Thailand realizes the danger of chemical weapons and is opposed to it, but it cannot impose a restriction on Thai workers. The Thai Government did send the director general of the Labor Department to Libya to persuade Thai workers to return home. It also asked their families to try to convince them to return. This shows that Thailand never encouraged its workers to look for jobs in Libya. Yet, the effort to dissuade them was not very fruitful.

"We even told the job placement companies which sent the Thai workers to the Libyan chemical weapons plant not to send more workers there. Anyway, as a free democratic country, we cannot impose a ban. The United States, which is a model democracy itself, must understand that it would be a violation of human rights if we imposed a ban," the secretary general of the National Security Council said.

Gen. Charan said the United States should think carefully if it wants to sanction Thailand for this. However, he believes his mission was successful in explaining to the United States.

To a remark by reporters that Germany and Japan, which are also democratic countries, called back their workers from Libya, Gen. Charan asked them which law could force workers to return home. He asked them whether human rights should be violated. He said German and Japanese firms called back their workers. As for Thai companies, Gen. Charan said they pulled out, but their contracts with workers were still valid.

"We cannot switch off immediately. We had a large number of workers in Libya, but the number has been greatly reduced over the past year. Besides, there are also those working in other fields in Libya. We, therefore, do not want to offend Libya for fear that our workers will be affected," Gen. Charan said.

Granting an interview on the same day, Deputy Interior Minister Suthat Ngoenmun said that there are presently seven Thai private companies exporting workers to Libya. They are: the B.P.B. Company, P.P.C. Construction (Thailand) Company, Kuta Company, Udon E.P.A. Company, Criston Company, Bisco Company, and Travel Master Company. Those companies send workers for jobs regularly. Meanwhile, three other companies, the W. and M. Company, N.S. Group, and S.C.P. Suphachok Company, sent Thai workers to Libya during 1989-1990. The S.C.P. Suphachok Company sent about 1,000 Thai workers who have fulfilled their contracts and returned home. There are no more Thai workers who were exported by the S.C.P. Suphachok Company in Libya now. The Labor Skill Development Department also terminated permission for the company to send Thai workers to Libya in 1991.

Suthat said there are about 25,000 Thai workers in Libya, and 12,000 of them are working with permits while another 13,000 went without permits from the Labor Skill Development Department. The workers who have gone through the process set up by the Labor Skill Development Department have their travel contracts with the department, which can be checked. Most of them are in Libya on contract to build water tunnels, lay oil pipelines, and work as carpenters, masons, chauffeurs, cooks, or officials in charge of community development.

The deputy interior minister said that because we have no labor office in Libya, it cannot be verified what the other 13,000 Thai workers are doing there. The Foreign and Interior Ministries temporarily suspended permission to allow Thais to work in (Lotta), where the chemical project is located. Anyway, the suspension has been lifted after the situation returned to normal. Workers are now allowed to go there. But from checking, there are no Thai workers in (Lotta).

Regarding three companies mentioned in reports who sent Thai workers to assignments on the chemical project in Libya, Deputy Interior Minister Suthat said that, from checking, it was determined that none of them sent workers to Libya. Furthermore, none of the eight private companies which exported workers through the Labor Skill Development Department ever sent workers to the chemical plant. If it is determined that they sent workers there, they will face arrest or have their licenses withdrawn. The Labor Skill Development Department also checked at the office of the S.C.P. Suphachok Company, 34/131 Wiphawadi 60, Bangkhen, Bangkok, and found that the company closed down operations two years ago. The minister said he is checking with the Commerce Ministry for the names of the board members and owners of the three companies cited in the reports. This should be known by 31 March.

Chatchai Hongthong, manager of the Handle Group, said he did not know that the name of his company was reported as being involved in construction of the Libyan chemical plant. He said his company is a small construction contractor company, founded about a year ago, and it deals with small projects in Thailand only. Now it is bidding for tap water work on a housing project, and has nothing to do with Libya.

"I am a construction engineer. I worked as a foreman once in Libya, between 1984 and 1987. I have no knowledge about weapons manufacturing. I only read from magazines on tap water work once and learned that some Korean firms are involved in the chemical weapons project in Libya," Chatchai said.

Trade Team Prolongs Stay in U.S.

BK3003033393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Mar 93 p B1

[Text] A high-ranking Thai trade delegation has prolonged its stay in Washington DC for further talks with the US Trade Representative (USTR) in a bid to avert retaliation, as a review on Thailand's trade status draws near.

The team is awaiting more instructions from the Council of Economic Ministers which met yesterday, informed sources said.

The deadline for the review on Thailand's Priority Foreign Country status, subject to possible trade retaliation under Section 301 of the US Trade Act, is April 2.

There is fear in Bangkok of greater protectionism under the Clinton Administration which may decide to impose penalities on Thai imports.

Thailand has been on the American PFC for two consecutive years.

The disputes between the two countries concern pharmaceutical patents and copyrights of video and cassette tapes.

The Thai delegation, led by Phatchara Itsarasena, permanent secretary for commerce, and USTR Director Robert Cassidy, met March 24-26. Both sides have failed to reach an agreement so far.

The Thai team has therefore decided to extend its stay until April 4.

According to a source at the Commerce Ministry, the US Government has demanded the Thai Government amend the Patent Act on the protection for drugs in the "pipeline" production, and make changes on the drug patent committee, and the compulsory licensing.

Moreover, the US Government also wants Thailand to stiffen legal action against those violating the intellectual property rights.

It demanded that the pirated cassettes and records industry should completely be wiped out.

The Thai delegation is reportedly waiting for further instruction from the Council of Economic Ministers before proceeding negotiations with the USTR.

The delegation has sent a number recommendations to the economic ministers, including a proposal that the chairman of the drug patent committee should be changed.

Furthermore, it proposed that the government should have fake tape sellers sign an agreement not to copy tapes with the copyright licence holders.

Currently, Thailand is listed in the PFC along with India and Taiwan. The USTR has cited pharmaceutical issues as the major reason for placing both Thailand and India on the PFC list. Taiwan, on the other hand, was listed as a result of intelligence property rights violation.

If satisfied with the result of this round of trade talks, the US government is expected not to immediately retaliate with its Section 301 trade law or abolish Thailand's Generalized System Preference (GSP) privileges on April 2.

According to the source, the US Government might give another six-month watch period for Thailand before reconsidering further trade retaliations.

Thailand, however, expects the conclusion of the current multilateral trade talk of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)'s Uruguay Round to give solutions for the current trade conflict.

The US Government has so far been satisfied with the Thai Government's stance on the labour issue, said the same source.

However, it is still skeptical of the Chuan Administration's actions on drug patent and copyrights.

If the US finds the result of the round unsatisfactory, it may decide to increase barriers or impose import restrictions on Thai products, the source said.

Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon, meanwhile was confident that the US Government wouid still not revoke Thailand GSP privileges.

But he quoted Phatchara as reporting from Washington that the Clinton administration has expressed concern that Thailand might not be serious in resolving the problems.

Uthai, however, reiterated that the US Government should consider the sincerity of the Chuan administration to solve the dispute, although Thailand still cannot establish the proposed intellectual property rights court, as the decision depends on the country's Contitutional process.

Besides, the Thai government has lately stepped up legal action against pirated cassette sellers nationwide signifying the seriousness of the current government.

"If the US manages to stop mentioning what we had done in the past and starts looking at what we are doing now, we certainly can come to an understanding," said Uthai.

Deputy Minister To Visit Saudi Arabia

BK3003024393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Mar 93 p A2

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan will succeed in his visit to strengthen relations with Saudi Arabia next month, Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said yesterday.

"I think Surin can provide information that will satisfy the Saudi authorities," Prasong told reporters at Parliament, referring to recent Interior Ministry investigations into cases involving the murder and abduction of Saudi nationals in Thailand a few years ago and the Saudi jewellery theft case.

He said he was confident that Surin would succeed in his mission because the Saudi government trusts the Chuan Likphai govemment more than previous ones.

Surin's trip will be the first official visit since relations were soured by the lack of progress in the Police Department's handling of the murder cases of Saudi diplomats three years ago and the subsequent disappearance of a Saudi busmessman.

Surin said on Sunday he would go to Saudi Arabia for five days from April 22-27, and would explain details of the Thai investigation into the cases.

The Saudi government stopped issuing new work visas for Thais seeking jobs in Saudi Arabia following delays in the investigation of the Saudi cases.

Court Rules To Return Seized Assets to Party Leader

BK2903150393 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] The Civil Court today made public the ruling by the Supreme Court to overturn an order issued by the National Peacekeeping Council to seize assets of Montri Phongphanit. This decision came after the ruling by the Supreme Court to return assets seized from Sano Thianthong.

Somphong Sonthinen, deputy chief of the Civil Court, today read the Supreme Court's ruling made in response to a complaint lodged by Montri Phongphanit, leader of the Social Action Party, over the seizure of his assets ordered by the National Peacekeeping Council. The verdict says that the ruling of the Supreme Court is final and has rendered illegal the function performed by the Assets Examination Committee.

Commentary Views Chuan's First Six Months

BK2903052093 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Mar 93 p 18

[Commentary by Disathat Rotchanalak: "Chuan government's performance a letdown"]

[Text] From the beginning the Chuan Likphai administration was a government of expectation. But after six months in office, many feel a letdown with regard to its performance, and academics blame it on the government leaders' business-as-usual attitude. Faced with criticism from within and without for lack of achievements, the Government has prepared to publicise what it has accomplished so far. Despite a long list of "achievements" announced by government spokesman, academics interviewed by SUNDAY PERSPECTIVE appeared to rate the Government's performance in terms of administrative style, a sense of direction and political leadership it has provided.

The Anan Panyarachun government made as its mission deregulation of business laws, decontrolling the private sector and privatisation and it promised transparency and accountability in decision-making. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, on the other hand, has promised the rule of law and the key words for his administration are decentralisation and distribution of prosperity and wealth. But political scientist Surichai Wankaeo of Chulalongkon University said a push for decentralisation has bogged down pending the study of a committee which is dominated by Interior Ministry officials. With the Interior Ministry's conservative thinking and resistance to change, most see a slim chance of major reform even though the conferring tambon councils a legal status seems certain.

Administrative power can be decentralised through many other forms of local government and allocation of tax revenues but these have largely been ignored by the committee, Surichai noted. Decentralisation policy is a historic mission which the Government should have mobilised efforts from all sectors in society instead of entrusting it to the Interior Ministry. While he is sceptical of the Government's political will on decentralisation, Surichai acknowledged its good intention and sincerity in distributing wealth but not without questioning its philosophy.

With construction of roads and other infrastructure in the provinces and incentives to lure investors to less developed regions, businesses are likely to be spread to the provinces but not prosperity, he commented. The beneficiary will be a few local businessmen but the policy will widen disparity between them and the larger majority of underprivileged who benefit little from the fruit of development, he said.

In fact, this Government has put much greater efforts and allocated resources and funds to villages than past governments. Government spokesmen pointed out the allocation of huge budget for digging reservoirs and assistance to shore up prices of cash crops.

The Government has put into action one of the most extensive packages of measures to boost falling paddy prices. Obviously, these tremendous efforts were laudable, Surichai says. Yet there are several self-contradictions in the policy towards the farming sector, he said. For example, with the prospect of severe water shortage this year, the Government has urged rice farmers to refrain from growing rice but has hardly imposed water-saving measures in Bangkok and other cities.

Kaeosan Attipho, a law lecturer at Thammasat University, said the price-supporting schemes for paddy was destined to be a failure and they have hardly raised the price of paddy above 3,000 baht per ton. The Government has proposed no long-term plan to solve the problem and help farmers to adjust to new environment. Falling paddy prices are among structural flaws which, Kaeosan believes, call for an imaginative, dynamic and open approach—a vision not found in that of the Chuan Government.

As a member of the committee to study decentralisation, Kaeosan said leaders of the coalition government have offered no directions on the trimming of the Interior Ministry's power or on taxation to boost revenues of local administration. What have happened are piecemeal efforts on study initiatives ranging from restructuring of the Police Department to the establishment of the Administrative Court with no hope of real application.

"What it reflects is that we have a government and a political system which are unable to formulate goals and plans to back them up," he said.

The Pak Mun Dam controversy is a case in point. Instead of treating it as a disturbance, the Government could seize it as an opportunity to experiment and create mechanisms to decentralise decision-making power and give local people a say in projects which will affect them directly, Kaeosan said. Although the Government's handling of the Pak Mun Dam protest and the ensuing violence evidently alienated many environmentalists and non-government organisations and marred its human rights record, some see mixed performance in this area.

Witit Munthaphon, associate professor at Chulalongkon University's Faculty of Law, said the Chuan administration started off with a positive image as a democratic government. But it lost ground because of its reluctance to take a stance against those who were responsible for the military crackdown of pro-democracy demonstrators in May last year and its slowness to respond to the needs of relatives of victims and those who are still missing.

"In recent months the Chuan Government's image has been more positive internationally, regarding the visit of the Nobel peace laureates to use Thailand as a platform for democracy in Burma and the release of Aung San Suu Kyi," he said. Even though the Government's constructive engagement policy towards Burma and its tacit endorsement of business deals with the military junta still leave much to be desired, Witit believes the stance on the Nobel laureates' visit signalled change to a more liberal policy.

Cambodia is another sore point in foreign policy. There was a backlash against Thailand when the Government showed an uncooperative attitude towards UN sanctions against the Khmer Rouge.

"If the peace process and the elections do not work or if there is a de facto partition of Cambodia, Thailand is going to be blamed in part by on-lookers for having cooperated actively and passively with the Khmer Rouge," he said.

On other fronts of human rights, Witit said progress has been made in women and children rights. Women can now become provincial governors and regulations barring them from being district officers have been lifted.

The Chuan Government has called for respect for children rights and eradication of child prostitution. "There are weaknesses though. The Chuan Government made many good statements but implementation has not been forceful enough," he said. Witit said decentralisation and people participation hold key to solving this problem as well as many others and the Government has not done enough on that front and has viewed problems from the point of law and order.

"We are talking about those who benefit from children throughout the whole community including law enforcement officials, MPs and customers. It does not suffice to say police will do it alone. He (Chuan) should look to the community to get all people involved—local leaders, religious personnel, the business sector and so on—as part of a network to protect children," he said.

In general, the Government has conveyed itself as a very indecisive government, Witit said, calling on the Premier and his team to come up with political thrust and implement policies more forcefully. Kaeosan warned that more protests are in store for the Government, which could find itself in deep trouble in the months to come if it is still slow to solve smouldering problems before they erupt into open conflicts. Witit says what the administration should try to do is to set certain agenda of priority. Decentralisation, environment, land problems and human rights will top the list.

"The Premier and his advisers should try to get their act together," he said.

Government To Boost Rice Paddy Prices

BK3003043793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Mar 93 p 17

[Text] The Government yesterday acknowledged that the price of paddy for the second crop this year was still low and that measures would be taken to boost prices so as to prevent any mass demonstrations by farmers.

The remarks came at the meeting of the Council of Economic Ministers where the issue of paddy prices was raised by the Commerce Ministry.

The council acknowledged that the prices of 5 percent paddy rice with 15 percent moisture sold on March 10 this year in Nakhon Pathom, Nonthaburi and Pathum Thani ranged only between 3,000 baht and 3,100 baht a ton.

But for 15-25 percent paddy rice with 20 percent moisture, the prices were between 2,600 baht and 2,700 baht a ton—about 500-600 baht lower than the same period last year.

The council was told that this year's paddy crop would be of lower quality with high moisture and would be in the market by the end of this month till the end of May.

If no measures were taken to solve the problem, farmers would be in trouble and protest demonstrations could be expected, it heard.

The Commerce Ministry proposed that provincial authorities be encouraged to increase their role to solve the problem as they were "the people who know the root problems in their respective provinces".

It also proposed that the paddy price situation "must be raised for immediate remedy" by the Agricultural Policy and Measures Committee.

Besides, the ministry suggested that the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives should be asked to accept paddy as mortgage in areas where second rice crop was vastly planted under similar conditions outlined in the government's paddy pledging scheme for the first crop.

Other supplementary measures proposed by the ministry included the escalation of rice export and inspection trips to areas where second crop was grown so as to boost understanding with farmers.

Vietnam

Minister Urges 'Drastic Measures' Against KR

BK2903154493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1148 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi, March 29 (AFP)—Vietnam's foreign minister called Monday on the United Nations and major powers to take drastic measures against the "barbaric and bloody" massacre by the Khmer Rouge [KR] of ethnic Vietnamese in Cambodia.

"The massacre of the Viet Kieu (overseas Vietnamese) is a serious affront not only to Vietnam but also the international community," said Nguyen Manh Cam during a press conference.

"Drastic measures are needed to stop the Khmer Rouge ... to stop the barbaric and bloody massacre," he added.

For several months the Khmer Rouge has waged a campaign to eliminate Vietnamese in Cambodia, culminating in the slaughtering of 33 people in central Cambodia less than two weeks ago.

That attack provoked an exodus of Vietnamese towards Vietnam. The departure of ethnic Vietnamese from Cambodia was one of the conditions the Khmer Rouge cited before it would agree to rejoin the United Nations' peace process which they abandoned last June.

Cam would not say exactly what measures he thought necessary, saying it was a matter for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

"It is also the responsiblity of the major powers," he said.

"I am convinced that if the major powers really wanted to, they could cooperate with UNTAC to find preventative measures," he added during the press conference originally planned to report back on last week's visit by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet to Japan.

Khmer Rouge Massacre Further Condemned

BK3003075793 Hanoi VNA in English 0609 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 30—The Vietnam Committee for Child Protection and Care has vehemently condemned the Democratic Kampuchea (Khmer Rouge) faction's massacres of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia. In a statement released on March 27, the committee appealed to international and non-governmental organisations as well as people in the region and all over the world to speak up against the Khmer Rouge criminals to prevent the recurrence of such crimes. In a written statement issued on March 25, the French Foreign Ministry spokesman condemned the mass killing of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia and said that France has submitted to the UN Security Council many proposals calling on the Cambodian factions to take measures to eliminate such crimes. THE TIMES OF INDIA on March 26 commented that despite their 21,000-strong force, U.N. officials in Cambodia still admitted their incompetence in handling the Khmer Rouge, who has turned beautiful Cambodia into a giant 'killing field' during their reign from 1975-78 and who is now the main saboteur of the peace process in Cambodia. In a statement on March 25 the Cuban Foreign Ministry called the killing of 33 Vietnamese residents in Cambodia on March 16 was a 'loathsome' act of the Khmer Rouge, designed to impede the peace process in Cambodia and, in particular, to cause instability in the pre-election period. It also called for appropriate measures by the UN Security Council, the co-chairmen of the Paris agreement, UNTAC and the SNC to prevent a recurrence of similar acts and to ensure success for the peace process in Cambodia and stability in Southeast Asia. In another development, according to a UNTAC spokesman on March 26, about 30 Khmer Rouge guerrillas attacked a village near the Angkor Wat temples, killing 5 people, including 2 children. The spokesman also said that last week the Khmer Rouge killed 20 people in various places in Cambodia. A Bangladeshi soldier of the UN peacekeeping force was also killed in a recent Khmer Rouge attack in the northwestern Siem Reap province, he said.

Foreign Minister Comments on Japan, U.S. Ties

BK3003055593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and Minister Le Xuan Trinh, director of the Government Office, held a press conference on the afternoon of 29 March at the Government Guest House to announce the good results of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's official visit to Japan. Many Vietnamese and foreign journalists attended the press conference.

On behalf of the prime minister, Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and Minister Le Xuan Trinh, who also joined our government delegation during its visit to Japan, briefed Vietnamese and foreign journalists on the key activities of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and his entourage in Japan. Minister Nguyen Manh Cam pointed out: Regarding relations between the two countries, during Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's visit, the two sides agreed on major trends as follows: Japan will speed up the dispersal of its official aid to Vietnam and encourage Japanese business groups and corporations to make direct investment in Vietnam and expand commodity exchanges. Japanese leaders highly valued the achievements of our country's renovation undertaking and promised to continue to help Vietnam with its renovation process, with priorities being given to our efforts to upgrade and build socioeconomic infrastructures. The two sides, however, believed that so far, cooperation between Japan and Vietnam has not been appropriate with each country's capabilities.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Japanese leaders agreed that in the immediate future, efforts should be made to promote cooperation for rapid development to make up for lost time. Both sides believed that this would benefit the two peoples and, at the same time, would contribute duly to the cause of peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

Minister Nguyen Manh Cam disclosed that during this official visit to Japan, on behalf of our government and people, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet reasserted that it is the objective of the foreign policy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV] to befriend all countries in the world based on the principle of mutual benefit and respect for each country's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. This is manifested through our stance over such issues of great concern for public opinion as U.S.-Vietnamese relations, Vietnam's stance over recent developments in Cambodia, and the Japanese prime minister's regional cooperation initiative.

Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and Minister Le Xuan Trinh answered many questions raised by newsmen. In response to a question raised by a REUTER correspondent concerning Japan's stance over the lifting of U.S. embargo against Vietnam and normalization of U.S.-Vietnamse relations, Minister Nguyen Manh Cam said:

[Begin Nguyen Manh Cam recording] It must be said that during our talks, the Japanese side expressed the desire to see the United States lift its embargo and normalize relations with Vietnam at an early date. Prompted by this desire, the Japanese side asked our side about Vietnam's stance over normalization of U.S.-Vietnamese relations and lifting of the U.S. embargo. We already clarified our standpoint as follows: It is our policy to continue to do all we can to help with the normalization of U.S.-Vietnamese relations. We believe that normalization of relations and lifting of the embargo are consistent with common trends. Therefore, those goals must inevitably come true. Our opinion, however, is that an early realization of those goals would benefit both sides. The statements of some U.S. officials and public opinion indicate that the process of lifting embargo and normalization of relations has showed positive signs. This fact has also been manifested through recent statements of some (?U.S. high-ranking officials). In our opinion, if the situation develops in a positive way, those statements will be welcomed not only by the Vietnamese and Japanese sides but by many countries as well. [end recording]

Commentary Applauds Premier's Japan Visit, Ties

BK2903134793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Station commentary: "A New Chapter Has Been Opened in Vietnam-Japan Relations"]

[Text] Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's official five-day friendship visit to Japan from 24 to 28 March is of historic significance, and the results of the visit have greatly helped promote the frienship and cooperation between Vietnam and Japan. First of all, as far as the significance of the event is concerned, this is the first friendship visit to Japan by a Vietnamese prime minister since the two countries established diplomatic relations 20 years ago. The history of relations between the two nations has witnessed many ups and downs and has been closely linked with developments in the region. The regional and international situations have changed. The common trends of the world situation are peace, stability, and development. The two countries have a good opportunity to close the past, look at the future, and work together to promote long-lasting and close cooperation in the interests of the two peoples and for the sake of peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.

Vietnam and Japan assert that they have reached a better understanding thanks to Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's visit to Japan. Prompted by the desire to befriend all countries in the world for the sake of peace, independence, and development, the Vietnamese Government has broadened and diversified its foreign relations, with priority being given to the promotion of friendship and cooperation with countries in the Asia-Pacific region, to which Japan also belongs and in which it plays an important role. This fact has been clearly manifested through the activities of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and members of the Vietnamese delegation during this visit to Japan.

The same thing could be said of the Japanese side. At a reception in honor of the Vietnamese prime minister, Japanese Emperor Akihito welcomed and viewed with keen interest Vietnam's renovation undertaking and the results of the talks between the Vietnamese and Japanese prime ministers, as well as the outcome of the working sessions between the Vietnamese prime minister and Japanese officials and businessmen aimed at strengthening the relations between Vietnam and Japan. The emperor noted that the relations between the two countries have been improved considerably and expressed the hope that those relations would continue to develop.

Secondly, through Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's Japan visit, Vietnam and Japan have reached agreement on additional documents testifying to the new level of cooperation and mutual assistance between the two countries. Immediately following the Vietnamese delegation's arrival in Japan, the Vietnamese and Japanese foreign ministers signed two agreements on $5 million in non-refundable aid from Japan to Vietnam in the 1992 fiscal year to upgrade the Hai Ba Trung Hospital and undertake an afforestation project in the Western highlands.

During his talks with Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa stressed: Following its resumption of development aid valued at $380 million to Vietnam late last year, the Japanese Government will continue to further expand and intensify its economic, scientific, and technical cooperation with Vietnam, with priority being given to efforts to help Vietnam upgrade and build such economic infrastructure as railways, roads, seaports, airports, energy, and post and telecommunications links; and such social infrastructure as education, training, and public health.

Furthermore, the Japanese Government expressed the hope that U.S.-Vietnamese relations will soon be normalized. Prime Minister Miyazawa also expressed his hope that relations between Vietnam and such international financial and monetary institutions as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank will be improved at an early date. He promised that Japan would continue to cooperate actively with other countries in helping Vietnam improve its relations with these international economic institutions.

We deem it necessary to add that according to the views of Japanese industrialists, businessmen, and politicians belonging to different sociopolitical organizations, given the current development of Vietnam-Japan relations, such a pace is slow and not appropriate to the potential, development requirements, and aspirations of the two peoples. This means that Japanese public opinion is urging the Japanese Government to take more drastic measures to promote its cooperation with Vietnam.

In welcoming the results of his friendship visit to Japan, we fully agree with the SRV prime minister's comment at a press conference in Tokyo as follows: Our visit has produced good results. We believe this visit will mark a new stage in the relations between Vietnam and Japan and will contribute to bringing the cooperation between our two countries to a higher dimension, a higher scale, and give it a broader and more diverse scope.

We can also conclude that the good results of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's friendship visit to Japan testify to the correctness of Vietnam's policy of befriending all countries in the world for the sake of peace, independence, and development as well as to the correctness and effectiveness of our open-door policy.

Government Seeks Foreign Investment for Nuclear Plants

BK3003101493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1002 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Ho Chi Minh City, March 30 (AFP)—Vietnam has one operational nuclear reactor and is seeking foreign investment to build two more, a semi-official newspaper reported.

The VIETNAM INVESTMENT REVIEW, published weekly by the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment, said the reactor near Dalat, in the south-central highlands, had been operational since 1983, mainly producing radioactive isotopes for medical use.

The Dalat nuclear plant was the first in Southeast Asia when it was built in 1956. Stripped by departing U.S. forces in 1975, it was rehabilitated with help from the former Soviet Union and International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA), the paper said.

Vietnam's call for foreign investment to build two new reactors—one for electricity generation and one for research—follows the discovery of high-grade uranium reserves in the central province of Quang Nam-Danang in late 1991, the paper said.

Modernisation of the existing reactor should be completed this year, "but the cash-strapped government can barely pay its nuclear scientists properly, let alone provide funds for building the two reactors," the paper said.

It was believed to be the first time that a newspaper in Vietnam—where the press is subject to state control—has mentioned the existence of an operating nuclear reactor at Dalat.

Former Secretary of State To Lead U.S. Delegation

BK3003112093 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] The U.S. Center for National Policies said it will sponsor a Vietnam visit by a 12-member research mission led by Senator Edmund Muskie, the former U.S. state secretary.

The mission will stay in Vietnam from 3 to 8 April to investigate a number of issues, including the growing role of Vietnam in Asia and the Vietnamese economy.

National Assembly Chairman Arrives in Manila 29 Mar

BK2903144193 Hanoi VNA in English 1428 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 29—A delegation of the Vietnamese National Assembly led by Chairman Nong Duc Manh arrived in Manila this morning, beginning a three-day official visit to the Philippines.

The delegation also includes Hoang Bich Son, member of the National Assembly Standing Committee and head of the Commission for External Relations Nguyen Thanh Phong, deputy head of the Economy and Budget Commission Pham Van Tra, member of the Defence and Security Commission and Bui Bich Lien, member of the Commission of Social Affairs. [sentence as received]

KLM Airlines Resumes Flights to Ho Chi Minh City

BK2803062293 Hanoi VNA in English 0525 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 28—After 18 years of interruption, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines will resume its air link from Amsterdam-Ho Chi Minh City on March 31, 1993 with stopover in Kuala Lumpur. For a start, there will be one flight weekly by Boeing 747-400 Combi with a capacity of 288 passengers and 40 tonnes of goods. KLM already has its representative offices in Ho Chi Minh City and Tan Son Nhat airport. This resumption followed an agreement signed between the two governments in August 1992. In early 1993, KLM merged with Northwest, the fourth biggest airlines of the United States.

Foreign Investment Capital Doubles in 1st Quarter

BK3003073993 Hanoi VNA in English 0556 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 30—The number of foreign investment capital registered for new projects in vietnam doubled in the first quarter of this year as compared with the same period last year.

Sixty-seven projects with a total capital of USD 569 million were licensed, or 27 projects more than the first quarter of last year.

Work has started on the construction of many of these project such as the Vietnam-Australia joint venture graphite enterprise capitalised at USD 12.2 million, the South East Brewery Ltd, a joint venture between Vietnam and Denmark capitalised at USD 14.5 million, and the Haiphong Export Processing Zone jointly undertaken by the Hongkong Very Good International Group, the South African 88-textile Group and Haiphong City with a capital of USD 150 million.

Hanoi alone granted licences to 11 projects with a total capital of USD 280 million in the first three months of 1993. This brought to USD 817 million the total capital invested in Hanoi since the promulgation of the foreign investment law over five years ago. Hanoi now stands second in the number of foreign investment projects after Ho Chi Minh City, where 270 projects have been licensed with a total capital of USD 1.67 billion.

The biggest project of this kind in Hanoi is a joint venture between South Korea's Orion Electric Company and the Hanoi Electric Company valued at USD 170 million.

Now more investors are looking for business opportunities in the north due to its great potentials of mineral resources and lower land rent than in the south. Most of the projects are for mass production to cater to local as well as export demands. Efforts are being made to improve the transport network in northern provinces to facilitate the circulation of goods.

Altogether, 623 projeccts with a total investment capital of USD 5.22 billion have been licensed in the whole country.

Greetings Exchanged With Malaysia

BK3003102393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Malaysia, 30 March 1973-30 March 1993, messages of greetings have been exchanged between the foreign ministers of the two countries. The message from Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam says in part:

I rejoice at the fact that the multisided relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries have developed with fine results in the recent past. I believe that with joint efforts we will be able to satisfactorily implement all the agreements at a high level between our two countries.

May I wish the relations of friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Malaysia constant development in the interests of the peoples of the two countries and for the sake of peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation in Southeast Asia and the world as a whole.

The message from Malaysian Foreign Minister Ahmad Badawi says in part:

The establishment of diplomatic ties between our two countries on 30 March 1973 opened the way for close and friendly relations. These relations have since developed with each passing day.

I am proud to note that considerable progress has been made in many areas of our bilateral cooperation in the past years. This cooperation has, in fact, been strengthened during the past two years, following the visits exchanged between the prime ministers of the two countries.

I ardently hope that the friendly relations and close cooperation that we have jointly developed in recent years will be strengthened further in the years to come.

Australia

Cook: APEC Can Defuse Trade Tension With U.S.

BK3003100593 Hong Kong AFP in English 0846 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Sydney, March 29 (AFP)—The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group could have a "pre-eminent" role in defusing trade tensions between the United States and the economies of East Asia, Australia's new Trade Minister Peter Cook said Monday.

In a speech to the Asia Pacific Insight Conference here, Cook warned the United States that it would provoke "resentment and resistance" if it went about trying to increase trading opportunities in the wrong way.

In particular, "if the U.S. seeks to exert bilateral trade pressures in a way that the benefits are reserved only for the U.S., then the entire world trading system based on equal access would eventually be put at risk."

In such a case, APEC would have a "pre-eminent" role in resolving conflict, Cook said.

APEC includes the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan, China, and the six members of the Association of South East Asian [Nations] (ASEAN): Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Cook, who was named trade minister after Australia's Labor government was returned to power in a general election on March 13, gave two examples of how the United States should not behave.

One would be "to demand fixed percentages for imports from the U.S." Just as clearly, he went on, "if the U.S. neglects to provide in its own economy the market access it demands in others, then sooner or later its trade partners will resist."

But, he said, "against this background of possible confrontation ... APEC could be useful in integrating the United States and the East Asian economies in a cooperative and consultative way."

Cook described the United States as "the key to APEC's going forward" but added that it would be foolish not to recognise that there were tensions.

Australia saw APEC as an umbrella under which an integrated regional market with harmonised trade rules could develop, he said.

A full free trade area was not yet possible in the region because of its diverse economies, but it was a long-term goal.

Officials here said last week that the government was encouraged by signs of support for its views at top levels of the administration of U.S. President Bill Clinton.

In a speech on February 8 at the start of the election campaign last month, Prime Minister Paul Keating proposed an open economic association in which the economies of the region would be integrated "to create the world's most dynamic zone of production."

As a start, he said, common principles could be developed on issues such as investment, harmonisation of standards in manufacturing, market access, and disputes settlement.

The two-day Asia Pacific Insight Conference is an annual briefing which involves business people and politicians from throughout the region. It concludes tomorrow.

Evans, Kinkel Concerned Over GATT Round

BK3003071493 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Australia and Germany have expressed their concern at the devastating impact of the potential failure of the Uruguay Round of world trade negotiations. After talks in Canberra, Germany's foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, said the agricultural policies of both France and the United States presented obstacles to concluding the trade round, now six years old.

Dr. Kinkel said if the trade round died it would have a serious impact on the international economy and do particular harm to developing nations.

Australia's foreign affairs minister, Gareth Evans, said it was premature to say the GATT talks were dead because too many countries had too much to lose.

[Begin recording] [Evans] I agree if the Uruguay Round were to fail, the consequences would be very serious indeed, both for the particular benefits that have already been negotiated and are expected to flow in tariff reductions, in services, in agriculture, and intellectual property, and so on, but secondly for the unquestioned impact this would have on international economic confidence. [end recording]

Steel Workers Strike Over Pay Dispute

BK3003012693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] A dispute over enterprise bargaining has resulted in a 24-hour strike by 14,000 BHP steel workers in New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia. The strike follows a breakdown in talks between the company and unions over agreement on how to calculate pay rises of up to 10.5 percent. BHP Steel wanted to continue a performance-related pay scheme which had been on trial for the past year, but this was opposed by the unions. The company says the strike will have a big effect on production and will make it more difficult to achieve international levels of competitiveness.